

A literary legacy



Grisham

Grisham, Minor to be honored with Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award this month

Special to The Democrat

Two celebrated Mississippi writers will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards at the upcoming 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 21-25, 2001.

Noted novelist John Grisham of Oxford, Miss., and North Garden, Va., and longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Minor of Jackson will win the prestigious awards, announced David G. Sansing, awards committee chair and professor of history emeritus at The University of Mississippi.

"We are delighted that both winners will be present at the Celebration to win the awards and to make remarks," Sansing said.

"The awards ceremony is bound to attract a

large crowd."

Grisham and Minor join previous Richard Wright award winners, who are Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Shelby Foote, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Sterling Plumpp, Richard Ford, Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Beth Henley and David Sansing.

Grisham, author of such block busters as *The Client*, *The Firm*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Chamber*, *Pelican Brief*, and *The Street Lawyer*, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, holds a law degree from The University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator. Many of his novels have been made into extremely popular movies.

"I'm not sure I am in the same orbit with the past recipients," Grisham said, "but I am humbled and flattered to be selected nonetheless."

Minor, considered by many the "dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His columns regularly appear in numerous newspapers across the South.

From offices in Jackson, Minor published his own newspaper for years and now continues to write researched columns.

His work appears weekly in *The Natchez*

Democrat, the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* and other newspapers.

"I am very flattered to be selected for this outstanding honor," Minor said.

"I have always been an admirer of Richard Wright's work, and to link my name to his is truly exciting."

The free awards ceremony will be at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 22, 2001, at the Natchez City Auditorium, according to Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, founder and co-chair of the literary/film event.

Though free, the awards ceremony is ticketed because a large crowd is expected and seating is limited to 1,200 people.

Tickets are available by calling the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Visitors Center, 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Copiah-Lincoln, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park and Alcorn State University. Most of the conference is free, with most related activities low-cost.

Tickets and information are available at the Natchez Visitors Center, 640 S. Canal St., Natchez, MS 39120.

More information is available at the conference's web site, www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc.



What: Mississippi author John Grisham and longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Minor will be presented the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award.
When: 6:30 p.m., Feb. 22
Where: Natchez City Auditorium.



Minor

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WEEKEND JOURNAL.

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W2 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2001

Literary Bookings

IT MIGHT SEEM positively un-American, but go ahead, turn off the TV and read a book. One of the nation's biggest book fairs is coming up in California, and it's joined by other literary events around the U.S.

California International Antiquarian Book Fair

THIS ANNUAL book blockbuster draws more than 100 rare-book dealers. It alternates between Los Angeles and San Francisco, where it will be held this year from Feb. 23-25. On opening day, book dealers appear as many as three books free. Tickets are \$65 for Feb. 23, \$5 thereafter. Phone: 650-554-1190; www.aiafb.com/2001.

12th Annual Malibu Literary and Cinema Celebration

THE TREND this year is "Fiction, Fact and Film: the Genius of the South." The event runs Feb. 23-25 and explores the Mississippi region as seen in books and movies. Mississippi author John Grisham will be at hand, as will Earl Hamner (whose books were turned into "The Waltons"). Most events are free. Phone: 805-467-0721; www.malibu.org/malibuliter.



Storytelling Festival

THIS LIVELY LITTLE college town of Ash Grove, Mich., is host to a weekend of tales Feb. 23-25, featuring three international, national or local storytellers each night. On Saturday, the stories will be followed by Irish traditional music. The storytelling sessions are held at the Ark, a local folk and music theater and cultural, and start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Phone: 517-531-1450; www.ark.org.

Lawrence Williams New Orleans Literary Festival

THIS SPECIAL festival features the usual readings, lectures and workshops, but there's also a "Massey and Stella Reading Series," devoted, of course, to the Williams's "Massey and Stella Series." The festival begins March 2. Phone: 504-581-1144; www.lawrencewilliams.net.

For members of
**Southwest Miss.
Electric Power
Association**

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Mississippi Hometown:
Beaumont

PAGE 6

Cover Story:
**Birth of a
home-based
business**

PAGE 8

Making a Difference:
A life in scouting

PAGE 10

Southern Gardening:
**Tips for planting
japanese magnolia**

Today

Mississippi Events

Woodcarvers to compete at show and sale Feb. 24-25

We gladly list events of statewide interest, as space allows. Submissions must reach us at least two months prior to the event date. All submissions must include a phone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Events, Today in Mississippi, P.O. Box 7897, Jackson, MS 39284; fax to 601-922-5815; or e-mail news@todayms.com. All events are subject to change. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times before making plans to travel. Abbreviations: CVB, Convention and Visitors Bureau; CC, Chamber of Commerce.

- "Hamlet and Beyond: The Literary Weeks of Walter Anderson," Feb. 2 - May 13, Ocean Springs. The Walter Anderson Museum of Art, (228) 872-3164.
- Monster Truck Rally, Feb. 9-11, Clarksdale. Monster trucks to compete. Admission. Expo Center. Call Coahoma County Tourism Commission, (662) 627-7337 or 800-626-3764.
- 23rd Annual Taco Bell River City Classic, Feb. 10, Natchez. Grand prix to include 5K walk, 1-mile fun run and after-race celebration. Admission. Downtown. Call Natchez CVB, (601) 446-6345 or 800-647-6724.
- Annual Bi-State Art Competition, Feb. 10 - Mar. 10, Meridian. Meridian Museum of Art, (601) 693-1501.
- Arbor Day, Feb. 11, Lucedale. National

Arbor Day celebration to include tree giveaway and poster contest. Free. City Hall. Call City of Lucedale, (601) 947-2082.

- Mississippi Coast History Week, Feb. 12-16, Biloxi. History encampment to feature 18th century French shelters, costumes, camp life, cooking, gunsmithing and more. Free. Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. Call Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society, (228) 435-6320; Web site: www.maritimemuseum.gccweb.net.
- 2001 Ark-La-Miss Fruit and Vegetable Growers Meeting, Feb. 14-16, Biloxi. To include sessions on production, management and marketing. Registration. President Casino Broadwater Towers Hotel. Call Dr. John Braswell, (601) 795-4525; e-mail: braswell@ext.msstate.edu.

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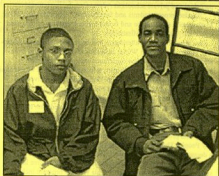
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- Petal Night of Bluegrass, Feb. 17, Petal. To feature Second Glance, Southern Express and others, 6 p.m. Admission. Petal Civic Center. Call Frank Johnston, (601) 649-3539.
- 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 21-25, Natchez. "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South" is theme. Free. Natchez Community Center. Call Copiah-Lincoln Community College, (601) 446-1208 or 800-862-3259; Web site: www.colin.cc.ms/NLC.
- Sandy Ridge Bluegrass Camp and Jam, Feb. 23-25, Meridian. Sandy Ridge Park. Call (601) 693-2996.
- Battle of West Point and Prairie, Feb. 23-25, Columbus/West Point. Civil War reenactment with battles, hospital, entertainment, campsites, period music and more. Admission. Waverly Waters. Call Possum Town Reenactors, (662) 327-9704 or 800-327-2686.
- Homeshow 2001, Feb. 23-25, Greenville. Home-decorating shopping extravaganza. Admission. Washington County Convention Center. Call Greenville CC, (662) 378-3141.
- Antique Rose Pruning and Care Workshop, Feb. 24, Carriere. Rosemary Sims, antique and old-fashioned rose expert, to lead workshop 10 a.m. - 2

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Feb. 5, 2001



LEARNING THE ROPES: Co-Lin Natchez Security Coordinator Randall Newell gave ninth-grader Jeremy Hamilton a look at what his job is like.

Ninth graders shadow Co-Lin employees

Nine students from Natchez High School got a peek into the workday of several staff members at Co-Lin Natchez recently.

The students, all ninth graders, were "shadows" during the annual nationwide program, Groundhog Job Shadow Day, when young men and women learn about different careers.

Co-Lin hosts and their "shadows" were: Dr. Ronnie Nettles, dean, and Richard Curtis; Gwen McCalip, director of admissions and records, and Tre' Hebert; Bettye Mullen, director of Student Support Services, and Kenneth Fitzgerald and Terrence Sproullis; Carolyn Harper, financial aid officer, and Marcus Pickett; Mark LaFrancis, director of public information, and Ashara Davis; Cynthia Barfield, instructor, and Vershaunda Ware; Randall Newell, coordinator of security, and Jeremy Hamilton; Laura Winston, secretary in Student Support Services, and Emmanuel Lewis.

This is the second year Co-Lin Natchez hosted students for the program.

Black History Program to feature play

The annual Black History Program later in February will feature a one-act play, "This Piece of Land."

Co-Lin students will perform the play, which was written by Dr. Lou Rivers.

A review says, "This Piece of Land" defies strict classification. ... Circumstances cause the hardships the characters have to endure. Yet, the play is close to tragedy in that it makes a powerful statement about the triumph of the human spirit over powerful oppression."

Co-Lin planning to raise \$12,000

Money would be used for walking trail

Co-Lin Natchez's Wellness Committee is planning to undertake a three-year, \$12,000 fund-raiser to improve the Dr. Joey Paul Walking Trail.

The current trail is made of crushed gravel and is difficult to maintain. Bettye Mullen, chairman of the Wellness Committee, said the panel hopes to create a professional trail.

Recently, the committee heard a report from Ralph Tedder, director of recreation for Natchez, about how the department went about establishing the walking trail at Duncan Park.

No formal plans have been made about how the money will be raised or when the kick-off will be.

In a related event, the Wellness Committee plans to unveil its Co-Lin Natchez cookbook on Feb. 21.

The book will feature recipes from staff, who also will cook a recipe for a special lunch program on that day. Lunch will be open to staff and students and will cost \$5 with the book included as part of the price.

The book's title also will be disclosed on that day. Employees have been asked to recommend titles.

The Wellness Committee has hosted a variety of lunches, each aimed at raising awareness about health-related topics.

NLCC ready for historic event

Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, 2001, with the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

The celebration has a slightly different name, it's moving to a new time of year, two films will make their premieres, and three speakers will present two programs, one at the conference and the other at Natchez High School. At the school, students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather, said Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater," he said.

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the Olympic Award-winning cultural event. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are Emma Blissett, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the event in 1990.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films, Dodson said. "We'll continue to celebrate great literature, but we're adding more films and documentaries," he said.

See NLCC, on Page 2

hez - Feb. 5, 2001

NLCC

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students, Dodson said. "They wanted the conference during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, from Alcorn State University and from public, parochial and private schools in Adams County, Barnett said.

"We also expect students and faculty from Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and from most universities, colleges and community colleges in Mississippi," he said.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year. The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

Premiering at the Celebration are films connected with two famous Mississippi writers, Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker Alexander. They are "The Ponder Heart," based on a novella by Welty and produced by ALT Films of Hollywood, Calif., and "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documentary produced by the University of Kansas.

The upcoming NLCC follows the usual pattern of a free lecture series with special enhancements. This year the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops.

Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., where most lectures will take place.

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Opinion

The Democrat

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

4A

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Don't delay; get literary, cinema tickets

Because of overwhelming interest in certain parts of the upcoming Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, and to meet fire code restrictions at the Natchez City Auditorium, free tickets are being issued to two special events, Feb. 22 and Feb. 24.

Though the tickets are free, you must have a ticket to attend. The two free events requiring tickets are:

- The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, honoring two Mississippi writers, the novelist John Grisham and the journalist Bill Minor, at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 22.

- The premiere of the film version of Eudora Welty's novella, *The Ponder Heart*, at 6 p.m., Sat., Feb. 24.

Both events will take place at the Natchez City Auditorium, corner of Jefferson and Canal Streets.

A notice posted by Natchez First Marshal Johnny Franklin states that a maximum of 1,200 people can safely be inside the City Auditorium at once.

Because of this limited number, a decision to issue free tickets was made in January after Celebration leaders learned that hundreds of people were planning to attend the conference. In particular, people are



Top of the
Morning
Carolyn Vance
Smith

interested in the awards ceremony and the film premiere.

Many of those planning to attend hail from the Celebration's sponsoring agencies, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Alcorn State University, Natchez National Historical Park and Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Others who have registered are from schools in Adams County, other Mississippi educational institutions, the international Elderhostel educational program and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at The University of Mississippi.

After numbers were called, it was obvious that seating at the City Auditorium would become a problem. Thus, the decision was made to issue free tickets for the remainder of the seats.

If available, free tickets may be

obtained by calling the Natchez Ticket Office, Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724.

Doors to the City Auditorium will open one hour prior to each event. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments will be for sale in the lobby.

We are delighted over the number of people who say they are coming to the Celebration this year. We think this proves it was right to move the event from June back into the school year to February and to add more high-quality films to our literary fare.

We hope you will agree when you attend the conference Feb. 22-25. One theme this year is "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Center of the South." On tap is a rich smorgasbord of lectures, films, panel discussions, writing workshops, tours, book signings, exhibits and special social activities.

For a lineup of activities, please refer to the NLCC web site at www.globe.com.ms/ndc, or watch for complete coverage in a special issue of *The Democrat*.

See you at the Celebration!

Carolyn Vance Smith is director of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Natchez The Democrat

Monday, February 12, 2001

www.natchezdemocrat.com

50 cents

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Workshops

Continued from 1A

"All four workshop presenters have invited participants to bring original manuscripts to the workshops so they can be discussed," Blissett said. "Who knows? There may be another John Grisham or Richard Wright waiting to be discovered."

The workshops are:

- "Straight News, Columns, and Editorials: Tips on Writing for Newspapers," to be presented by Bill Minor of Jackson, award-winning "dean"

of Mississippi journalism. Workshop chairman is Copiah-Lincoln public relations director Mark LaFrance.

- "The Nuts and Bolts of Poetry Writing," to be presented by published poet Jerry W. Ward, professor of English at Tougaloo College. Workshop chairman is Paul Blissett, chairman of the English and Foreign Language Department at Alcorn.

- "Play Writing Made Easy," to be presented by David Zimmerman of Point Lookout,

N.Y., author of "The Day Huey Long Was Shot" and a play based on that book. Workshop chairman is instructor of English Barbara Haigh of Copiah-Lincoln.

- "Structure and Format: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," to be presented by S. Dixon McDowell, chairman, Department of Radio, Television and Film, University of Southern Mississippi. Workshop chairman is instructor of English Judy Wiggins of

Copiah-Lincoln.

Cost of each workshop is \$20, which includes continental breakfast from 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. and workshop handouts.

The fee is payable by mail to Natchez Ticket Office, Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, 640 South Canal St., Natchez, Miss. 39120 or by credit card by calling 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724. The choice of workshop should accompany the fee.

Get your pencils ready: Experts to offer advice at workshops

Special to The Democrat

Are you a closet writer who dreams of getting published? Your chance is coming.

Just pull out that poem, play, script, or story. Then present it to a writing expert at one of four writing workshops, 9:30 a.m. until noon Sunday, Feb. 25, at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

"We are delighted to offer four



Natchez

concurrent writing workshops as part of the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Emma Blissett of Alcorn State University.

Alcorn is one of four Celebration co-sponsors. Others are Copiah-Lincoln, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Natchez National Historical Park.

See Workshops, 5A

Country Roads

From Natchez to New Orleans Events • Getaways • Cuisine

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Longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Miser (above) and novelist John Grisham will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, February 21-23.

Wednesday

- 1:15 pm: A film, "Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White, the History of Modern Southern Literature," produced by Agave Films and narrated by former Poet Laureate Rita Dove.
- 2:45 pm: "20th Century Films: Their Beginnings, Sources, and Genres."
- 3:30 pm: "Representing, Standing, and Standing Up: Notions Literary and Legal in *To Kill a Mockingbird*."
- 7 pm: A film, "To Kill a Mockingbird," with coffee house session to follow.

Thursday

- 9 am: "Harry Long: Fact, Fiction, and Film," a discussion with David Zisman, author of *The Day Harry Long Was Shot*.

creative director, "Poetry Pals," and Jennifer Ogden, producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie" and other films.

- 10:30 am: "From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film," a discussion by Jane Chase Wells, NBC-TV, Llewellyn Wells, producer, Warner Bros. "The West Wing," and David Armstrong, novel/script writer, chaired by Henri Bellinger.
- Noon: "Books and Films: Defining Our Sense of Place," Clifton Taubert, Tulsa, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored* and other books, book sale and book signing to follow.
- 1:30 pm: "Willie Morris, *My Day Skip and Me*," JoAnne Prichard Morris, senior

editor, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

- 2:45 pm: The film version of Willie Morris' *My Day Skip*.
- 8 pm: "Accolades for William Faulkner," readings from Faulkner's work by actor Gerald McRaney and remarks about Faulkner's career, with emphasis on *The Raven*, by Donald Kartiganer, author of *The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels*, with film clips.

Saturday

- 9 am: "Blues for Scarlett: Music in Films from Southern Literature," Gerald Sivan, professor of music, University of Arkansas.
- 10:30 am: "Lights, Camera, Action: Favorite Film Sites in Southwest Mississippi," Llewellyn Wells, producer of

"Huck Finn," a film shot partially in Natchez.

- Picnic lunch and re-enactment of a scene from "Horse Soldiers" at Jefferson College.
- 2:15 pm: "The Heart of Eudora Welty's Family Comedies," Peggy Whitman Preshaw, Fred C. Frey Professor of English, Louisiana State University, editor, *Conversations with Eudora Welty: 15 Essays*.
- 3 pm: A film, "One Writer's Beginnings," a BBC documentary featuring Eudora Welty and her novella, *The Ponder Heart*.
- 5 pm: Premiere of the film version of Eudora Welty's novella, *The Ponder Heart*.
- Sunday
- 10 am-noon: Workshops for Writers. Limited enrollment. Choose one.

Catholic Schools

A Gift For Life

Diocese of Baton Rouge

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February 21—25: Books, Film: *Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Natchez, Miss.*—Change is in the air for the twelfth annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC), which is set to be reborn bearing the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

Known for eleven years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, the conference has been re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films.

The upcoming NLCC follows the usual pattern of a free lecture series with special enhancements. This year the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops. Special guests this year include Mississippi author John Grisham and longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Minor. Both will be presented with the prestigious Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award during a Thursday evening ceremony. Five days brim with lectures and presentations, films and readings and workshops by scholars, actors, authors, producers and historians too numerous to recount. Highlights include:

Wednesday

- 1:15 pm. A film, "Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White, the History of Modern Southern Literature," produced by Agee Films and narrated by former Poet Laureate Rita Dove.
- 2:45 pm. "20th Century Films: Their Beginnings, Sources, and Genres."
- 3:30 pm. "Representing, Standing, and Standing Up: Notions Literary and Legal in *To Kill a Mockingbird*."
- 7 pm. A film, "To Kill a Mockingbird," with coffee house session to follow.

Thursday

- 9 am. "Huey Long: Fact, Fiction, and Film," a discussion with David Zinnman, author of *The Day Huey Long Was Shot*, William Bedford Clark, author of *American Vision of Robert Penn Warren*, and Noel Polk, editor of *All the Kings Men*.
- 10:45 am. "Film as Document," Maryemna Graham, University of Kansas and senior academic adviser of a film project about the life and writings of Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander.
- 11:15 am. A premiere of the film, "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander."
- 1:30 pm. "Facts and Fiction: A Veteran Broadcaster Offers a Fictional Look at Natchez and New Orleans," Ciji Ware, San Francisco, reporter/author of *Midnight on Julia Street* (set in New Orleans) and *A Light on the Veranda* (set in Natchez, for release 2001).
- 3 pm. "Richard Wright and Cinematic Interpretation," Jerry W. Ward, co-editor of *Black Southern Vision*.
- 6:30 pm. The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, honoring novelist John Grisham and journalist Bill Minor.
- 7:45 pm. Moonmouth Plantation: A gala seated dinner honoring John Grisham and Bill Minor. (Limited to fifty people @ \$135 each.)
- 8 pm. The 1950 film version of Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*, followed by an informal coffee house discussion led by Maryemna Graham, Noel Polk and Jerry W. Ward.

Friday

- 9 am. "Responding to the Needs of Society: Bringing the Human Touch to the 21st Century," a discussion by Barry Phillips, PBS-TV series "Wildhouse," and creative director, "Poetry Pal," and Jennifer Ogden, producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morris" and other films.

- 10:30 am. From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film," a discussion by Jane Chase Wells, NBC-TV, Llewellyn Wells, producer, Warner Bros. "The West Wing," and David Armstrong, novel/script writer, chaired by Henri Bollinger.
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- 2:15 pm. "The Heart of Eudora Welty's Family Comedies," Peggy Whitman Premhaw, Fred C. Frey Professor of English, Louisiana State University, editor, *Comments with Eudora Welty: Eudora Welty Critical Essays*, and *Eudora Welty: 11 Essays*.
- 3 pm. A film, "One Writer's Beginnings," a BBC documentary featuring Eudora Welty and her novels, *The Ponder Heart*.
- 6 pm. Premiere of the film version of Eudora Welty's novella, *The Ponder Heart*.

Sunday

- 10 am-noon: Workshops for Writers. Limited enrollment. Choose one.

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- "Straight News, Columns, and Editorials: Tips on Writing for Newspapers," Bill Minor.
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 - "Play Writing Made Easy," David Zinnman, playwright.
 - "Structure and Format: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," S. Dixon McDowell, chair, Department of Radio, Television, and Film, University of Southern Mississippi.
- Continuing Throughout the Celebration*
- Free exhibit on films shot in Natchez, Wednesday—Saturday
 - Free exhibit on films shot in Louisiana, Wednesday—Saturday
 - Free tours of the mansion McJannet, cornerstone of the Natchez National Historical Park, Wednesday—Sunday

All this alongside luncheons, dinners, receptions and tours to sites made famous in film shot in the Natchez area. A Mardi Gras parade and ball presented by the Natchez Krewe of Phoenix are even part of the fun. Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin Street, where most lectures will take place. Other sites to be used are noted in the agenda. Information and tickets are available by calling (601) 446-6345 or (800) 647-6724 or by visiting the conference Web site at www.colin.co.ms.us/nlcc.

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JOHN GRISHAM, BILL MINOR TO RECEIVE RICHARD WRIGHT AWARDS

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"We are delighted that both winners will be present at the Celebration to win the awards and to make remarks," Sansing said. "The awards ceremony is bound to attract a large crowd."

Grisham and Minor join previous Richard Wright award winners, who are Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Shelby Foote, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Sterling Plump, Richard Ford, Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Beth Henley and David Sansing.

Grisham, author of such block busters as *The Client*, *The Firm*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Chamber*, *Pelican Brief*, and *The Street Lawyer*, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, holds a law degree from The University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator. Many of his novels have been made into extremely popular movies.

"I'm not sure I am in the same orbit with the past recipients," Grisham said, "but I am humbled and flattered to be selected nonetheless."

Minor, considered by many the "dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His columns regularly appear in numerous newspapers across the South.

From offices in Jackson, Miss., Minor published his own newspaper for years and now continues to write researched columns. His work appears weekly in *The Natchez Democrat*, the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* and other newspapers.

"I am very flattered to be selected for this outstanding honor," Minor said. "I have always been an admirer of Richard Wright's work, and to link my name to his is truly exciting."

The award is named in honor of Richard Wright, born near Natchez in 1908. His first novel, *Native Son*, was published in 1940 and was an immediate success. His *Black Boy*, a fictionalized autobiography, was published in 1945 and sold 400,000 copies in three months.

After leaving Natchez at a young age, Wright worked in Chicago and later moved to Paris, where he died in 1960.

Though free, the awards ceremony is ticketed because a large crowd is expected and seating is limited to 1,200 people. Tickets are available by calling the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Visitors Center, 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724.

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration announces changes, agenda for 2001

Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, 2001, with the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

The Celebration has a slightly different name, it's moving to a new time of year, two major films will make their premieres, and those speakers will present two programs. Those programs will take place at the conference and the other at Natchez High School, where students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather, said Beth Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater," he said.

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the Olympic Award-winning cultural event. He represents the national park, which has been a co-sponsor since 1991. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are Emma Bissoett, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the event in 1990.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films. Dodson said, "We'll continue to celebrate great literature, but we're adding more films and documentaries," he said.

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students. Dodson said, "They wanted the conference during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, from Alcorn State University and from public, parochial and private schools in Adams County, Barnett said.

"We also expect students and faculty from Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and from most universities, colleges and community colleges in Mississippi," he said.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year. The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

"Another aspect of the conference which appeals to teachers is the fact that they can earn Continuing Education Units while attending the conference," Bissoett said.

Premiering at the conference are the film version of Eudora Welty's novella *The Ponder Heart*, produced by ALT films of Hollywood for PBS, and "For My People, The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documentary produced by the University of Kansas.

Still another change is taking one program of the conference into the schools. Bissoett said. Three speakers will present a free program about their careers Feb. 22, 2001, at Natchez High School. Students and faculty from other area high schools are invited to attend.

Premiering this program are the author Clifton Taddei of Tulsa ("Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored"), the Emmy Award-winning film producer Jester Oglethorpe of Natchez (Oprah Winfrey Harpo Productions' "Tuesdays with Morrie") and the Emmy Award-winning art director Barry Phillips of Fort Worth ("Wildhorn" and "Poetry Patrol").

The upcoming NLCC follows the usual pattern of a free lecture series with special enhancements. This year the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops.

Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., where most lectures will take place. Other sites to be used are noted in the following agenda. Information and tickets are available by calling 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724, or by visiting the conference web site at www.cnlcc.ms.030500.

Because of partial funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Department of Tourism and other agencies, most of the NLCC is free or low-cost.

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literary celebration

Natchez celebrates cinema, books

By Lori Herring
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

The 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration — featuring lectures, films, book signings, exhibits, discussions, tours and workshops — begins Wednesday.

"There will be scholars, writers, film experts and film producers who will mix and match their knowledge," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairwoman of the event.

The theme of this year's celebration is "The Genius of the South."

"What we tried to do is touch on various geniuses who are well known such as Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, Harper Lee, Huey Long and others, and we are exploring their works in book and film version," Smith said.

The Richard Wright Literary Award will be given in conjunction with the celebration.

This year's honorees are novelist John Grisham and veteran journalist Bill Minor.

"Obviously, it's a big honor, and I'm looking forward to seeing Natchez for the first time in a long time," Grisham said. "When you write popular books, you don't get many awards."

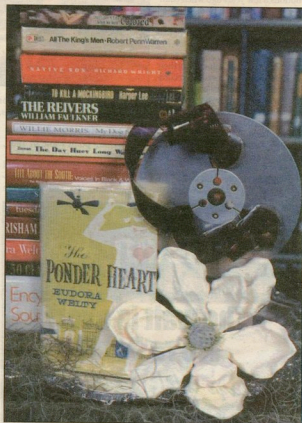
"I'm deeply honored and I'm humbled to be considered in the company with the previous winners," said Minor, who Grisham described as "an old friend." And it's an honor to be associated in any way with the name of Richard Wright.

"He's very deserving," Grisham said. "He took some gutsy stands a long time ago. He was one of few journalists who did the right thing 30 years ago. And he's always done it with a lot of integrity."

"I don't know of anyone in America who has achieved more in a shorter period of time than John Grisham. His books are in over 30 languages. He has sold more novels than any other living writer within the past decade," said David G. Sansing, professor emeritus of history at The University of Mississippi and chairman of the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence Committee.

"And Bill Minor has been, in a large degree, the conscience of Mississippi," Sansing said. "He keeps us honest and aware both of our promise and our shortcomings."

In addition to the awards ceremony, there will be a number of other events, including the Natchez premiere of the film ver-



Special to The Clarion-Ledger
The 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration begins Wednesday.

sion of Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*, as well as screenings of such classic films as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Willie Morris' *My Dog Skip*, Richard Wright's *Native Son* and others.

Visit the Web site at www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc for a complete itinerary.

And the best part: most of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Cel-

ebration is free.

"There are literally thousands of people who will be influenced by this conference," Smith said. "We're glad to have such generous donations and grants so that this can be free."

Clarion-Ledger staffer Jerry Mitchell contributed to this article.

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Opinion

The Democrat

Wednesday, February 21, 2001

4A

Our Mission

The Natchez Democrat and its employees strive:

- To produce exciting, top-quality news publications focusing on people and events that affect the Mississippi Delta.
- To bend over backwards to meet the needs of our advertisers.
- To report news accurately and without bias.
- To edit and publish with integrity and with the best interests of our community in mind.
- To operate at a profit level that allows us to fairly compensate our employees, reward in our organization and stand independent from outside influences.
- To take an active leadership role in our community.
- To do what we say we will do.
- And, above all, to treat our readers, advertisers and employees as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Our Opinion

Natchez lucky to host literary, film celebration

Words on paper and moving images on a silver screen seem as though they are worlds apart.

Yet, they will intertwine in a delightful and, no doubt, fascinating form today as the 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Film Celebration gets under way.

And it's a perfect mix. Natchez has a glorious history of producing great writers and has been the backdrop for dozens of films.

The event is like a welcome friend that's

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on this or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor in The Democrat by:

- **E-mail:** letters@natchezdemocrat.com
- **Fax:** (601) 442-7315
- **Mail:** P.O. Box 1407, Natchez, Miss. 39121
- **Or in person:** 503 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 442-3535.

And this year promises to be even better with the inclusion of film into the event.

From the Richard Wright Award Winners — journalist Bill Minor and author John Grisham — to the myriad of first-rate speakers, this year's event looks to be the best-ever.

The care and planning that goes into the event is astounding. Volunteers spend countless hours in preparation so that when the doors open things run smoothly. And we're never disappointed.

And the fact that the celebration draws enthusiasts from all over the country gives some indication of its caliber.

The event is yet another of the precious jewels in Natchez's tourism crown. And it's something the entire community should take pride in and support.

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ABOUT THE ANNUAL NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

"Readin', Ritin' and Rejoicin'!" That's what the "Three R's" stand for in Natchez, Miss.

So says Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

"Since it began in 1990, the Celebration has attracted hundreds -- sometimes thousands -- of people each year," Smith said. "All of them love to read and rejoice over books."

Cost of each year's literary and cultural event is very low, Smith said, because of the hard work from the four sponsoring agencies, Copiah-Lincoln, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and Alcorn State University. "We are also grateful for generous grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and corporate and business donors," she said.

"Because of this, plus widespread volunteerism, we can keep our lectures free," Smith said. "And we price all meals, tours and other special activities at low cost."

Conference co-chairmen with Smith are Bob Dodson, superintendent of the NNHP, Jim Barnett of the MDAH and Emma Blissett of Alcorn.

The Celebration annually features about a dozen lectures by nationally known scholars and writers, enhanced by related films, tours, book signings, exhibits, plays, readings, concerts, entertainments and meals.

"The Literary/Cinema Celebration proves that people hunger after top-quality conferences devoted to literature, history and the arts," Dodson said.

And top-quality it is, according to Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the history department at Mississippi State University, one of many who attend each year.

"The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is unique among humanities programs," Lowery said. "It is beyond question the best program I have been part of during many years of involvement in Mississippi and elsewhere."

"It is remarkably successful for several reasons: the richness of its humanities content, the happy choice of program participants, and the virtually flawless execution of a carefully planned program."

The conference has won many awards, including the Governor's Award for Tourism Achievement; a Cultural Olympiad award for outstanding programming from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games; the Most Outstanding Festival or Event in Mississippi from the Mississippi Tourism Commission; and the Public Humanities Achievement Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Each year's conference deals with some general aspect of Southern history. Some of the noted speakers have been the writers Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, William Styron, Willie Morris, Ellen Douglas, Ernest Gaines, Elizabeth Spencer, Nikki Giovanni, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and Maya Angelou; the Richard Wright scholar Michel Fabre of Paris; and the historians Robert V. Remini, David Sansing, William Scarborough, John D.W. Guice, Jay Gitlin, John Blassingame, Michael Wayne, and Douglas Lewis.

Special events have included the dedication of the mansion Melrose and the House of William Johnson to the National Park Service, concerts by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and tours of nationally important historic houses.

One of the results of each NLCC is the bringing together of various constituencies: young and old, male and female, scholar and student, the highly educated and the under-educated, the African-American and the Caucasian. "Indeed, the Celebration is one of the few places in the Deep South where Blacks and Whites gather in large numbers with a common goal: to rejoice over books," Smith said.

"The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration definitely lives up to its name each year," she said. "It is a true celebration which brings people together from all walks of life."

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

February 20, 2001

To: NLCC William Winter Scholars 2001
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLC Co-chairman
Re: Welcome to Natchez!

My NLCC co-chairmen, Jim Barnett of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Emma Blissett of Alcorn State University, and Bob Dodson of the Natchez National Historical Park, join me in welcoming you to the twelfth annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. If you need anything, please feel free to call on us. Here are a few items that may be of interest while you are here:

(1) Headquarters of the Celebration February 21-24 will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin Street, corner of Wall and Franklin streets. The building is part of the new Natchez Convention Center complex, now under construction. Many of the lectures and events on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, February 21, 22, and 23, will take place at the Community Center.

(2) Headquarters February 24 will be at the Natchez City Auditorium, 201 Jefferson Street.

(3) Writing workshops on February 25 will be at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle.

(4) The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony on Thursday, February 22, will be at the Natchez City Auditorium. Other activities are likewise scheduled for various sites around Natchez. Please follow the program agenda closely to be sure of location of events.

(5) Though free, two events require tickets. They are the awards ceremony on Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. and the premiere of the film, "The Ponder Heart," on Saturday, February 24, at 6 p.m. Doors will open one hour prior to each event. We expect a full house each night; so, be there early for good seating.

If you prefer to take your own car or to carpool to any of the public or private events, please do so. A customized map is available in the program booklet. Or ask for directions at the information desk in the lobby.

Please wear your name tag and, for any ticketed event, take your ticket. Thank you. Have a wonderful time!

P.S. Don't forget that a group photograph of this year's William Winter Scholars will be taken on Wednesday, February 21, 2001, immediately following the afternoon lectures. This should be about 4:30 p.m. Please go toward the stage to join Gov. Winter for this photograph. Thank you.

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

February 20, 2001

To: NLCC speakers, lecture chairs, award winners, Advisory Board members, and other VIPs
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman
Re: Welcome to Natchez!

My NLCC co-chairmen, Jim Barnett of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Emma Blissett of Alcorn State University, and Bob Dodson of the Natchez National Historical Park, join me in welcoming you to the twelfth annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. If you need anything, please feel free to call on us. Here are a few items that may be of interest while you are here:

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(5) For VIPs going to private meals or other events away from headquarters, Copiah-Lincoln offers limited free transportation. To ride, simply go to the lobby and make your wishes known. Also available is the Natchez trolley system (downtown loop, \$1 per ride).

(6) Enclosed is a copy of the public and private events you told me you want to attend. Accordingly, we have turned in an exact number to restaurants and caterers for which we will be charged. I hope you can attend the things you checked off.

(7) Though free, two events require tickets. They are the awards ceremony on Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. and the premiere of the film, "The Ponder Heart," on Saturday, February 24, at 6 p.m. Doors will open one hour prior to each event. We expect a full house each night; so, be there early for good seating.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 22, 2001

9 a.m. "Huey Long: Fact, Fiction, and Film," a discussion by David Zinnen, Ft. Leake, N.Y., author of *The Day Huey Long Was Shot*; William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M University, author of *American Vision of Robert Penn Warren*; and Noel Polk, University of Southern Mississippi, Editor of Warren's *All the King's Men*, with film clips, chaired by Charles Reagan Wilson, Director, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, to be introduced by Carolyn Bennett, Executive Director, Foundation for Historical Louisiana, Baton Rouge

9:10-10 a.m. Concurrent event, open only for area high school students
NATCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL, MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

"Careers in Literature and Film," a panel discussion and multi-media event by Jennifer Ogden, Natchez and Hollywood, Producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie" and other films, Barry Phillips, Fort Worth, PBS TV series, "Waltons," and Creative Director, "Poetry Pair," and Clifton Taulbert, Tulsa, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored* and other books. To be introduced by Carl Davis, Superintendent, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez, Miss.

10:45 a.m. "Film as Document," Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas and Senior Academic Advisor of a film project about the life and writings of Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander, to be introduced by Alfordson Harrison, Director, Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.

11:15 a.m. A premiere of the film, "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander"

11:45 a.m. Book signing honoring the morning's lecturers

1:30 p.m. "Facts and Fiction: A Veteran Broadcaster Offers a Fictional Look at Natchez and New Orleans," Cij Ware, San Francisco, reporter/author of *Midnight on Julia Street* (set in New Orleans), and *A Light on the Veranda* (set in Natchez, for release 2001), to be introduced by Carl Butler, Instructor of History, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Columbus

3 p.m. "Richard Wright and Cinematic Interpretation," Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo (Miss.) College, co-editor of *Black Southern Voices*, to be introduced by Elbert Hilliard, Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

4 p.m. Book signing honoring the afternoon's lecturers

4-6 p.m. **NATCHEZ MUSEUM OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**
Reception honoring NUCC speakers (\$10, tickets for sale at the door.)

6:30 p.m. **NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM**

(Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A pre-program concert by the Natchez High School Madrigal Singers, directed by Joyce Arsenault, will be from 5:45 p.m. until 6:25 p.m.)

The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, honoring two Mississippi writers:

- The novelist John Grisham of Oxford, Miss., and North Garden, Va.
- The journalist Bill Minor of Jackson, Miss.

Remarks by:

- Emma Blissett, Instructor of English, Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.
- John D. W. Guice, Professor of History, The University of Southern Mississippi
- The Honorable Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi
- The Honorable William F. Winter, former Governor of the State of Mississippi

THE 17th ANNUAL
NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI
FEB. 21-25, 2001
PRESENTS

FICTION, FACT, AND FILM:
THE GENIUS OF THE SOUTH

Headquarters: Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., Feb. 21-23, 2001
Headquarters: Natchez City Auditorium, 201 Jefferson St., Feb. 24, 2001
Headquarters: Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle, Feb. 25, 2001

All events are free, unless otherwise noted

NOTE: All events are at the Natchez Community Center unless otherwise noted.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 2001

1 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

- Howell Garner, president, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- Clinton Bristow, president, Alcorn State University
- Ronnie Shows (D-Miss.), U.S. Congressman
- F.L. "Hank" Smith III, mayor of the City of Natchez
- Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln; Bob DeLoach, NHRP; Jim Barnett, MDAH; and Emma Blissett, Alcorn, Co-chairmen of the Celebration
- William Winter Scholars 2001, Elderhostel participants, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students and faculty members, Celebration Advisory Board members, and other special guests
- William F. Winter, President, MDAH Board of Trustees, and the Celebration's Director of Proceedings

1:15 p.m. A film, "Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White, the History of Modern Southern Literature," produced by Agee Films, Charlottesville, Va., and narrated by former Poet Laureate Rita Dove, to be introduced by Barbara Carpenter, Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson

2:45 p.m. "20th Century Films: Their Beginnings, Sources, and Genius," Charles G. Vahlkamp, Hazelrigg Professor of Humanities, Centre College, Danville, Ky., to be introduced by Carl Davis, Superintendent, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez, Miss.

3:30 p.m. "Representing, Standing, and Standing Up: Notions Literary and Legal in *To Kill a Mockingbird*," Cleophas Thomas Jr., Harper Lee enthusiast and attorney-at-law, Anneton, Ala., to be introduced by Carl Davis

7 p.m. A film, "To Kill a Mockingbird," with coffee house session to follow, led by Cleophas Thomas Jr. and Charles G. Vahlkamp, to be introduced by James L. Wiggins Jr., Instructor of History, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez, Miss.

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New NLCC director of development has big plans for the event's future

Retirement for Mada Bowser doesn't mean taking it easy. She's working just as hard as ever.

"After having lived away from Natchez for 40 years, it is so wonderful to return home and become involved in something as exciting and as worthwhile as the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," Bowser said.

A Natchez native and a 1961 graduate of Natchez High School, Bowser was recently named the Director of Development for the NLCC.

"In my work for Santa Monica College in California, I traveled extensively, regularly visiting Hawaii, Argentina, Brazil and Hong Kong," Bowser said. "I have had the opportunity to participate in numerous conferences. The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration ranks right up at the top for its impressive variety and depth of topics and the rich diversity of talents it brings to Natchez."

Bowser's new volunteer position involves



Bowser

primarily the responsibility for fund-raising. "As an avid reader, I looked forward to retirement and coming home to get involved in the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," she said. "Little did I imagine what Carjilyn (Vince Smith) would come up with for me to do. My cousin, Page Ogden, always tells people that I can do anything because I've read a lot of books. It is exciting to find something for which that really might be a good qualification."

One of Bowser's major efforts will be applying for a \$300,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. "If we raise enough money to meet NEH requirements, the NLCC could gain permanent financial stability," she said. "Then our efforts could be concentrated on the program itself, rather than forever worrying about money."

Bowser expressed amazement that the Celebration is virtually free of charge to participants. "An event of this scope would carry a high-ticket price in other places," she said.

"We in Natchez are so fortunate that the sponsors have managed to find the money to open this up to everyone."



Continuing Education Units available for teachers attending the literary, film conference

Faculty and staff in Mississippi's schools are eligible to earn up to 2.7 Continuing Education Units (27 hours) for attending the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

A CEU registration fee of \$30 per teacher covers costs of CEU verification at The University of Mississippi's Institute for Continuing Studies and the costs of a writing workshop with continental breakfast, from 9:30 a.m. until noon, Sunday, Feb. 25.

If a teacher cannot attend the entire conference, CEUs are available for the number of actual hours in attendance, from 3 hours up to the maximum of 27 hours. The CEU fee of \$30 applies no matter the number of hours to be received.

Attendance at NLCC events that cost money is not required for CEU hours. Those ticketed events are a NAPAC reception Feb. 22 (\$10), a luncheon Feb. 23 (\$25) and a tour with picnic Feb. 24 (\$20).

Registration for CEU credit is available at the NLCC information desk in the lobby.



Future events

Mark your calendar!

- 13th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 27-Mar. 3, 2002: "Creativity in the South: A Living Legacy"
- 14th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 26-Mar. 2, 2003
- 15th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 25-29, 2004

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MISSISSIPPI
Center for the Book

A partnership of the Library of Congress and the
Mississippi Library Commission

ANNOUNCES

its first statewide project

“All Mississippi Reading
the Same Book”

2001

for a schedule of events
www.book.lib.us.ms

EUDORA WELTY

The Ponder Heart



Books by celebration speakers
are for sale in the lobby.

*Proceeds from sales benefit
the celebration.*

"Tickets for the Richard Wright Library Excellence Award Concerts, honoring John Coltrane and Bill Miles on Tuesday night, and the premiere of the movie based on Eugene O'Neill's 'The Iceman Cometh' are no longer available," she says.

The two-day evening events will be held at the City Auditorium to accommodate the number of people interested in attending.

Thursday's program will begin at 9 a.m. at the community center, with a panel discussion about Hong Kong political governance and economic conditions in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

2001 1000 + 2
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Natchez literary, film celebration ready to begin

...the school year and now we're not competing with students down," she said. "We have many more cultural groups coming."

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8:00 p.m. 8/10: "Tall about the South" stories in Black and White. The stories of talented Southern literature, produced by Agnes Kane, Charleston, S.C., and reviewed by the same reviewer, Bill Clark.

2:00 p.m. "19th-Century Films: The
Beginnings, Growth and Decline,"
Charles H. Warkentin, President,
Professor of Humanities, Central
College, Nashville, Mo.

3.30 p.m. "Representing (Standing) and Standing Up: Native Lawyers and Lawyers in the 19th Century,"
Chengye Thomas, J. Philip Law
conference and attorney at law
Boston, MA

13 p.m. After "The Hill" is telecast, the station will broadcast a special program featuring the "Hill" cast members and the "Hill" cast members.

time this year, at Capital-Louisiana Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Adams State University.

Research Council, Institute **Manager for Children and the National Geographic Society** picks up the ball back to be together for the National Library and Science Exhibition at the National Geographic Society. Research from the same of the same and others. The National Geographic Society will benefit educational studies.

The 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film: *The Genius of the South*

Feb. 21-25, 2001 Natchez, Mississippi

FREE OR LOW-COST

Lectures - Films - Book Signings - Exhibits - Discussions - Tours of Film Sites

Awards ceremony honoring the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor

For information and tickets: 1-601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724

Web site: www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc

Presenters at the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

- * David Armstrong: Novelist/screenwriter, Southaven, Miss.
- * Henri Bollinger: California film authority
- * William Bedford Clark: Warren scholar, Texas A&M
- * Maryemma Graham: Alexander scholar, Univ. of Kansas
- * John Grisham: *A Time to Kill*, *Pelican Brief*, Miss. and Va.
- * Earl Hamner: "The Ponder Heart" producer, California
- * Donald Kartiganer: Faulkner scholar, Univ. of Miss.
- * Gerald McRaney: Actor, Calif. and Miss.
- * Bill Minor: Journalist, Jackson, Miss.
- * JoAnne Prichard Morris: Univ. Press of Mississippi
- * Jennifer Ogden: "Tuesdays with Morrie," Hollywood
- * Barry Phillips: PBS' "Wishbone," Fort Worth
- * Noel Polk: Warren scholar, Univ. of Southern Miss.
- * Peggy Whitman Prenshaw: Welty scholar, La. State Univ.
- * Marian Rees: "The Ponder Heart" exec. producer, California
- * Gerald Sloan: Music/film expert, Univ. of Arkansas
- * Clifton Taulbert: *When We Were Colored*, Tulsa
- * Cleophus Thomas: Harper Lee scholar, Anniston, Ala.
- * Charles Vahlkamp: Film scholar, Centre College, Ky.
- * Jerry W. Ward: *Black Southern Voices*, Tougaloo College
- * Ciji Ware: *Midnight on Julia Street*, San Francisco
- * Jane Chase Wells: NBC's "The Third Watch," Hollywood
- * Llewellyn Wells: Warner Bros. "The West Wing," Hollywood
- * Charles R. Wilson: Southern culture scholar, Univ. of Miss.
- * David Zinman: Huey Long expert, Pt. Lookout, N.Y.

RELATED FILMS

- * "Tell About the South: Modern Southern Literature"
- * "Native Son"
- * Portions of "All the King's Men"

* Portions of "The Reivers"

- * "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- * "My Dog Skip"
- * "One Writer's Beginnings"

PREMIERES OF TWO FILMS

- * "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documentary
- * "The Ponder Heart," based on Eudora Welty's novella



This event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park, and Alcorn State University. The project is partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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The 12th Annual
Natchez Literary
and Cinema
Celebration
presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South



Feb. 21-25, 2001  Natchez, Miss.

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February 21, 2001



Jennifer Ogden, Carolyn Vance Smith, Marion Smith
Brunch at Christopher's



Barry Phillips, Jennifer Ogden, Carolyn Vance Smith

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Hank Smith, William Winter, Clinton Bristow
Emma Blissett, Charles Vahlkamp



Opening Ceremonies February 21, 2001
Front Row: Barbara Carpenter, Carolyn Vance Smith
Mayor Hank Smith, William Winter, Clinton Bristow
Standing at right: Jim Barnett, Bob Dodson, Emma Blissett



Clinton Bristow



Barbara Carpenter



William Winter

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Howell Garner



Hank Smith

Literary and Film Celebration continues today

By JOAN GANLEY
The Natchez Democrat

A film weaving together the lives and works of some of the South's most notable writers are the stage for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration at the Community Center Wednesday afternoon.

Several hundred attended the afternoon programs, beginning with Rita Dove's narration of the **book** documentary "Tell a Today's schedule. About the South's history (a in Black and White, the History of Southern Literature."

Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park, said the first day of the five-day event program

Natchez

continues from the first.

"We're off to a great start," he said. The first test is when you open the event and you get out the maximum number of chairs, which is 450, and you are most of them filled."

Dodson estimated 200 to 400 were in attendance Wednesday, saying he especially liked seeing so many students and teachers on hand for the programs.

"We have very big student participation this year," he said. "I guess we must have twice the number of students as last year because of moving the date to February."

The first 11 Literary Celebrations were held in late May and early June. Teachers in recent years began to request a change in

time as it better into school schedules.

The Natchez National Historical Park is a sponsor of the Celebration along with Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Alcorn State University and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Following the opening film, Charles G. Hubbard of Centre College in Danville, Ky., presented "20th-Century Films: Their Beginnings, Sources and Content."

Vidlin, Haskins professor of Journalism at Centre, began with efforts by the Associated press Thomas A. Vidlin to record images on film in the same way he had recorded sound.

Vidlin went on to trace the development of film-making as an art form with insight into the methods and surprising. See Celebration, A4



Participants in the Natchez Literary and Film Celebration attended a screening of "To Kill a Mockingbird," the film version of Harper Lee's classic novel, at the Natchez Community Center Wednesday evening.

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Clay Thomas speaking on "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Celebration

Continued from A5

innovations of the early producers.

Two programs centered on the famous Harper Lee novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" comprised the Wednesday lineup.

Lee columnist Claydon Thomas II, an attorney from Jackson, Ala., presented "Representing, Standing and Standing Up: Notions Literary and Legal in 'To Kill a Mockingbird'."

Celebration participants viewed the film "To Kill a Mockingbird" in the evening, followed by a coffee-house style

discussion led by Thomas and Vidlin.

Dodson said response from Natchez people and organizations has been key to the success of this year's event.

"People are donating their time, providing special meals for our speakers, offering their workspaces to house them and volunteering to shuttle the speakers to and from the airport," he said.

"I know if a guest speaker came into Natchez with a special need, we could find someone to fill it."



Today's Schedule

Events at Natchez Community Center unless noted
9 a.m. "My Long Road, Fiction, and Film," a discussion by David Shields, R. Lusk, N.Y., author of "The Day After Tomorrow" and "The Day After Tomorrow," with film clips, moderated by Charles Rogers Wilson, The University of Mississippi
10:30 a.m. "Film as Document," Maryanne Graham, University of Kansas and Senior Academic Advisor of a film project about the life and writings of Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander
11:00 a.m. A premiere of the film, "To My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander"
11:30 a.m. Book signing following the evening's lecture
1:30 p.m. "Facts and Fiction: A Historical Perspective on the Film 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and New Orleans," by Claydon Thomas II, Attorney at Law, and "To Kill a Mockingbird" (a film in Natchez, Miss.)

to release 2001)

2 p.m. "Richard Wright and Cinematic Interpretation," Jerry R. Ward, Tougaloo College, co-editor of "Black Southern Voices"
4 p.m. Book signing following the afternoon's lecture
6 p.m. NATCHES MUSEUM OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, Natchez, following MDC speakers (B1)
8:30 p.m. NATCHES CITY ALCOHOLISM: The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award Ceremony, honoring two Mississippi writers, the novelist John Graham of Oxford and North Garden, Va., and the journalist Bill Minor of Jackson
10:00 p.m. MONMOUTH PLANTATION: A gala event dinner honoring John Graham and Bill Minor (limited to Monmouth at \$100; \$100 is recommended). The event is sold out.
8 p.m. The 1960 film version of Richard Wright's novel "Native Son," followed by an informal coffee house discussion led by Maryanne Graham, University of Kansas, Iowa Park, University of Southern Mississippi, and Jerry R. Ward, Tougaloo College



Participants at Natchez Community Center



Panel Discussion on Huey Long
Charles Reagan Wilson, David Zinman
Noel Polk & William Bedford Clark

February 22, 2001



Ciji Ware



Alfreda Harris



Maryemina Graham



Carl Butler



David Zinman & Charles Reagan Wilson



Sony Ward

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NAPAC RECEPTION

ADMIT ONE - \$10

Historic Dining and Games Celebration

RECEPTION and TOUR

Honoring all speakers

Natchez Museum of Afro-American

History and Culture

Corner of Wall and Main Streets

6-6 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 22, 2001

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Jerry Ward, Dwight Greene, Jackie Williams



Samuel White, Dwight Greene, Shirley Wheatley, Kathy Moody
Willie Mae Bacon, Juanita Jones, Jackie Williams

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Maryemma Graham, JoAnne Prichard Morris, Dwight Greene



Clifton Taulbert, Shirley Wheatley, Samuel White
Dwight Greene, Juanita Jones



The 12th annual award-winning

*NATCHEZ LITERARY AND
CINEMA CELEBRATION*

*"Fiction, Fact, and Film:
The Genius of the South"*

February 21-25, 2001

Presents

*THE RICHARD WRIGHT
LITERARY EXCELLENCE
AWARDS CEREMONY*

6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 22, 2001

NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

Honoring the Distinguished Mississippi Writers

*JOHN GRISHAM
and
BILL MINOR*

Ticket No	Price
25	\$0.00
NLCC- Awards Ceremony Natchez City Auditorium Jefferson Street Thursday, Feb 22, 2001 6:00 pm * John Grisham & Bill Minor, Guest	

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Bill Minor, John Grisham, William Winter



Natchez High School Madrigal Singers



John Grisham and Governor Musgrove

Richard Wright Award Ceremony



Richard Wright Award Ceremony
Emma Blissett and Governor Musgrove

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John Grisham, William Winter & Bill Minor



Presentation at Natchez High School
Barry Phillips, Clifton Taulbert, Jennifer Ogden



John Grisham & Ronnie Musgrove

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Emma Blissett, William Winter, Bill Minor
John Grisham, Ronnie Musgrove, John Guice

Benefit Dinner at Monmouth
Honoring Richard Wright Award Winners
February 22, 2001



Barry and Teri Tillman



Clifton Taulbert & Regina Charbonneau

ADMIT ONE
A Gala Benefit Dinner
Honoring
JOHN GRISHAM
And
BILL MINOR
Monmouth Plantation
Natchez, Miss.
(Following Awards
Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at
City Auditorium)
Thurs., Feb. 22, 2001



Ron Riches, Marguerite Guercio, Henry & Jackie Weiss

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William and Elise Winter, Gerald McRaney



Clifton Taulbert, Barbara Taulbert, Archbishop of Louisiana



Maria Bowser, Sue Mosser, Carolyn Vance Smith, Marion Smith

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Carlisle Henderson, Emily Henderson, Missy Brewer



David Ball, Bob Dodson, Betty Dodson, Gwen Ball



Henri & Sandy Bollinger, Stuart & Pat Margolin



Frances Trowclair, Nancy Guice, John Guice



Ed Godfrey, Laura Godfrey, Barry Phillips

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Bettina Barnes, Josephine Haxton, Bill Godfrey, Rose Godfrey



Bob Barnes, Bettina Barnes, Josephine Haxton (Ellen Douglas)

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Ron Davis, Ron Riches, Ciji Ware, Lani Riches



From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film
David Armstrong, Lew Wells, Jane Wells



Elise Winter, Carolyn Vance Smith, William Winter

February 23, 2001

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ADMIT ONE - \$25
Notches Overtop and Cinema Collection
LUNCHEON and PROGRAM
By the author CLIFTON TAUBERT
Carriage House Restaurant
at Stanton Hall
401 High Street
12 p.m., Fri., Feb. 23, 2001

\$1

Ticket No.	Price
5	\$25.00
NLCC-Luncheon Carriage House Restaurant Friday, Feb 23, 2001 12:00 PM Stanton Hall 401 High Street	

The Natchez Democrat

Friday, February 23, 2001

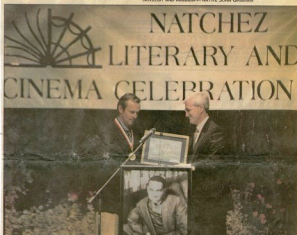
www.natchezdemocrat.com

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"There are a lot of great characters (in Mississippi) ... a lot of funny people, a lot of strange people, a lot of complicated people."

NOVELIST AND MISSISSIPPI NATIVE JOHN GRISHAM

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The Natchez Democrat photo, left: Musgrove

Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, right, presents author John Grisham with the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence Thursday evening.

'Anchored in the soul'

Grisham, Minor receive Richard Wright awards

By APRIL WORTHAM
The Natchez Democrat

"Can't you just imagine Richard Wright looking down today and saying, 'Look who's honoring me—two governors, the greatest American novelist of our day and a columnist that has done so much to help the minorities of this state,'" said Dr. John D.W. Gaice, professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Gaice, who is also vice chairman of the awards committee for the 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema

Celebration, was speaking of those gathered on stage Thursday night at the Natchez City Auditorium to present and receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards, a group which included Gov. Ronnie

inside
► Students hear advice on careers, TA.
► Today's school TA.
► Panel focuses on Huey Long, TA.

Musgrove, former Gov. William F. Winter and this year's award recipients, novelist John Grisham and journalist Bill Minor.

The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award was created in 1994 by the literary celebration to honor the internationally-known novelist and



Mississippi journalist Bill Minor, left, receives the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award Thursday night from former Gov. William Winter.

Natchez native whose works included "Native Son" and "Black Boy."

Both Minor and Grisham said they were humbled and honored to be included with such past winners as Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Willie Morris and Shelby Foote.

As a writer known primarily for his popular fiction, Grisham said recognition for literary talent is "far and few between," and he appreciated being placed in the same category as his literary heroes.

"There was a five-foot-six baseball player several years back that was

asked what it's like to be the shortest player in the major leagues," Grisham said just prior to the awards ceremony. "And he said, 'It's better than being the shortest player in the minors.'"

Minor, who claimed he "never aspired to be anything other than a reporter," said he was honored the Mississippians he has informed for more than 50 years consider his writing to be great literature.

After accepting his award, Grisham spoke to what he believes is one of the prevailing questions of Southern literature over the last century: "How does one poor, small state like Mississippi produce such great literature?"

"For me, the answer is pretty easy," Grisham said. "There are a lot of great characters here ... a lot of funny people, a lot of strange people, a lot of complicated people."

Add in a long history of turbulence and conflict, you have some great material that people like himself feel compelled to write about, he said.

Grisham said many Southern books carry a common theme rooted in a strong sense of place, "something anchored in the soil" that he attempts to emulate in his latest novel, "A Painted Horse," a portion of which he read during the ceremony.

"After you write a lot of books in a certain genre, you begin to ask yourself if you could be successful in writing something else," Grisham said.

See Awards, 7A

Awards

Continued from 1A

Grisham said he was also honored to share the stage and Wright stood with Minor, whom he applauded for his courage in speaking his mind. "He's never been afraid to write an article and point his finger at the establishment," Grisham said.

Minor said he remembers meeting Grisham in the Mississippi Senate when he served in the 1980s.

"I remember John telling me he would get up at 4 in the morning and go to the study room of his house to wait so he not to wake his family, and I was impressed by that," Minor said.

Though he admitted he didn't like Grisham's efforts at writing seriously then, Minor offered advice borne from a lifetime of living on deadline. "You have a lot of life left to live, please don't burn out," he told Grisham. "We want to see you around for a long time."

Turning to the award's namesake, Minor said he never knew Wright but sympathized with his struggle for equality in a society ruled by whites — a struggle Minor attempted to lessen with his hard-hitting stories and columns on Mississippi governance during the Civil Rights era.

Winters, who presented the award, commended Minor for his straight-forward writing style that not only reported the facts, but encouraged people to think. "We've been fortunate to have a journalist as perceptive and faithful as Bill Minor to record and preserve these events for us," Winters said. "Whether we know it or not, we are all in his debt."



Today's Schedule

Events at Natchez Community Center unless otherwise noted
8 a.m. "Responding to the Needs of Society: Bringing the Human Touch to the 21st Century," a discussion by Barry Phillips, Fox News, PBS TV series, "Webb" and Creative Director, "Poetry Plus," and Jennifer Ogden, Natchez and Hollywood, Producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Lundays with Moore" and other films, to be introduced by Paul Johnson, Dean, Copiah-Lincoln Community College

10:30 a.m. "From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translated to Film," a discussion by Jane Chase Wells, NBC TV News York, Jennifer Wells, Producer, Warner Bros. "The West Wing," and David Armstrong, novelist/screenwriter, "Southern, Miss.," chaired by Herb Solinger, Sherman Oaks, Calif., to be introduced by Ronald L.F. Davis, Professor of History, California State University-Northridge

Noon CARRIAGE HOUSE AT STANTON HALL, A Luncheon (\$25, set out) followed by "Topics and Films: Defining Our Sense of Place," Delton Taubert, Tulsa, author of Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored and other books; book sale and book signing to follow, to be introduced by Paul Johnson, Dean, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez and Welton

1:30 p.m. "Hello Mom, My Dog Skip," and "Me," JoAnne Richard Moore, senior editor, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, to be introduced by Reynolds Waters, Executive Vice President, Alcorn State University, Lumbert

2:45 p.m. The film version of Mike Morris' "My Dog Skip"

5 p.m. DOWNTOWN NATCHEZ "The Wonderful World of Disney," a free parade presented by the Natchez Mardi Gras Kings of Phantas

8 p.m. "Accolades for William Faulkner" Readings from Faulkner's work by Gerald McInerney, actor, of California and Mississippi, and remarks about Faulkner's career, with emphasis on The Reivers, by Donald Barthelme, The University of Mississippi, author of "The Fugate Throat: The Making of Film in Faulkner's Novels," with film clips, to be introduced by William F. Winter

Area students hear advice on careers

By EMILY WHITTEN
The Natchez Democrat

Three award-winning film and writing professionals told high school students Thursday to remember their hometowns.

"I'm really proud of being a Mississippian. I'm proud of being a filmmaker," said Jennifer Ogden of Natchez and Hollywood, an Emmy Award-winning producer. "I'm proud of being a filmmaker from Mississippi, and it's something I don't hide in Hollywood."

Ogden, Clinton Taubert, a Pulitzer prize nominee and author of "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored," and Barry Phillips, award-winning creative genius behind PBS TV's "Webb," spoke to students from Adams County Christian School, Cathedral School, Natchez High School and Trinity Episcopal Day School Thursday morning at the Natchez-Adams School District Multipurpose Building.

The session was part of the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration taking place this week.

Ogden told the students their Southern background can be a great asset to them even in the film industry.

"Don't turn your back on your heritage," she said.

In talking about her first job as a babysitter in New York, Ogden also



The Natchez Democrat's film director

Author Clinton Taubert talks to students from area high schools Thursday at the Natchez-Adams School District Multipurpose Building.

said contacts are very important in the film industry if coupled with hard work. "It's not just who you know but how you do your job and what you know," Ogden said.

And getting a degree in film does not guarantee you a position in the industry, she said.

As a producer, Ogden said she is often responsible for budgets of \$60 to \$70 million making the work very competitive and fast paced.

Taubert told students to pay close attention to area in which they live. "Observe the full measure of the world around you," he said.

And that includes every person,

road and type of house around.

"The greatest thing about writing is the ability to observe the full measure," Taubert said.

By observing the world in his hometown in Glen Allen, Taubert said he was able to write his books complete with stories about shotgun shacks, cotton and life in Mississippi for a black child during the 1940s and 1950s.

"You cannot write what you don't know," Taubert said.

And Taubert says he would not have wanted to have lived anywhere else.

"There's no better place to live than where you are," Taubert said.

Phillips also told the students to focus on commitment and to figure out what makes them different from everyone else and also what makes them similar to everyone else.

"Always give yourselves a chance to be who you are," Phillips said.

Phillips, who grew up in a small town in Texas, said when he received an Emmy many of his friends, including friends from elementary school attended the ceremony.

All of the people that you meet in life are important and "as you go through life you pick up the influence of all these people," Phillips said.

He also told the students to prepare themselves through study and reading and to discover what they want to do in life.

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Dinner at Elgin
February 23, 2001



JoAnne Prichard Morris, William Winter, Keith Dockery McLain
Jennifer Oyden, Peggy Preshaw



Noel Polk, Sandra Simpson & Donald Kartiganer



Carolyn and James Hefley

- 1) Carolyn Vance Smith
- 2) Ruth Ellen Calhoun
- 3)
- 4) Sandra Simpson
- 5)

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JoAnne Prichard Morris, Keith Dockery McLean
Peggy Prenshaw, Noel Polk &



William Winter, Elise Winter, Hank Smith, Marion Smith, Jackie Smith

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Gerald and Nancy Sloan

"The Ponder Heart" to premiere in Natchez Feb. 24, 2001

press release

The film version of Eudora Welty's hilarious yet heart-warming novella, *The Ponder Heart*, will premiere in Natchez Saturday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the City Auditorium.

"This free program is the highlight of the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Co-Lin is founder and co-sponsor of the Celebration. Other co-sponsors are the Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Alcorn State University. Assisting with the Natchez premiere of "The Ponder Heart" is Mississippi Educational Broadcasting.

"All the best talents in Hollywood collaborated on this exceptional film," Smith said.

On hand to introduce the 94-minute film will be its executive producer, Marian Rees of ALT Films, Studio City, Calif. One of television's most honored producers, she has produced 26 films for network and cable television, including many for the prestigious Hallmark Hall of Fame.

Also present will be the Welty film's producer, Earl Hamner, also of Studio City. Hamner is creator, producer and narrator of the long-running television series, "The Waltons," and is creator of the television drama, "Falcon Crest."

Gail Gilchrist, screenwriter of "My Dog Skip," a film based on a book by the same name by Willie Morris, wrote the television script for Welty's sunny novella.

Stars include Peter MacNicol ("Sophie's Choice," "Ally McBeal" and "Ghostbusters II") as Uncle Daniel Ponder; JoBeth Williams ("The Big Chill"), as Edna Earle Ponder; Angela Bettis ("Girl, Interrupted"), as Uncle Daniel's wife, Bonnie Dee Peacock; Lenny Von Dohlen ("Twin Peaks"), as the lawyer DeYancey Clanahan; Jenifer Lewis ("Castaway") as Uncle Daniel's housekeeper Narcisa Wingfield; and Brent Spiner ("Star Trek") as prosecuting attorney Dorris Grabney.

"Mississippi is especially rich in writers, but few writers have captured the sense of any region as perfectly as Miss Welty has captured Mississippi," Rees said. "The Ponder Heart" was filmed in Mississippi in March 2000 in Canton, Edwards and Raymond. "We were delighted to film this wonderful book here," she said.

The opportunity for people attending the Celebration "to see a sneak preview of this comic masterpiece is exceptional," Smith said. The film will air on Public Broadcasting System in the fall as part of ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theatre's American Collection, she said.

"Professors and teachers might be interested in knowing there is an educational component of the PBS series on the Web at ncteamericancollection.org," Smith said.

The Ponder Heart has been the basis for many versions since it first was published in 1953 in *New Yorker* magazine. It appeared in book form in 1954, and in 1956 a dramatic adaptation appeared on Broadway. The current film version is the first of its kind.

Though seating at the Natchez premiere is free, tickets are required. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the Natchez Ticket Office, 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724.

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ADMIT ONE - \$20
Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
 TOUR (in any order) of
 Elms Court and Jefferson College
 With PICNIC AND
 FILM RE-ENACTMENT
 at Jefferson College
 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., Feb. 24, 2001
 (Transportation on-your-own)

The 12th annual
**Natchez Literary and
 Cinema Celebration**

*"Fiction, Fact, and Film:
 The Genius of the South"*

February 21-25, 2001

Presents

A PREMIER
 OF THE
 FILM VERSION
 OF
EUDORA WELTY'S
 NOVELLA

THE PONDER HEART

6 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 2001

NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM
 NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI



917
 NLCC- The Ponder Heart
 *** World Premiere ***
 Natchez City Auditorium
 Saturday, Feb 24, 2001
 6:00 pm

\$0.00

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AMERICAN LITERATURE ON TELEVISION

Principals

MARIAN REES
STEPHEN KULCZYCKI
ANNE HOPKINS

ALT Films is a new not-for-profit television production company created for the express purpose of making television films based on important American literature.

Founded in 1997 by much-honored network motion picture producers Marian Rees and Anne Hopkins and the highly regarded public television programming executive Stephen Kulczycki, ALT has committed to create five motion pictures for PBS' signpost dramatic series **EXXONMOBIL MASTERPIECE THEATRE**. The five ALT films, together with four that will be commissioned by Boston PBS station WGBH, will air as **EXXONMOBIL MASTERPIECE THEATRE'S AMERICAN COLLECTION**. The new programming strand, which will premiere on *Wednesday, October 25, 2000* with the ALT production of Langston Hughes' **CORA UNASHAMED**, marks the first time American films have aired on the series.

ALT Films was selected from a wide field of production entities by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to be allotted the single largest program grant in its history. In making the selection, CPB and PBS alluded to the long string of artistically successful television motion pictures created by Marian Rees Associates, the company run by Ms. Rees and Ms. Hopkins. MRA films have won every major award in television, including eleven Emmy Awards, two of which were for Best Program of the Year.

At this writing, ALT has completed filming on four adaptations: the premiere presentation, Langston Hughes' powerful short story **CORA UNASHAMED**, which stars Regina Taylor, Cherry Jones, and CCH Pounder; a film of Willa Cather's partly autobiographical novel **THE SONG OF THE LARK**, starring Alison Elliott, Maximilian Schell, Tony Goldwyn and Arliss Howard; and Eudora Welty's comic novel **THE PONDER HEART**, starring Peter MacNicol and JoBeth Williams. James Agee's classic novel **A DEATH IN THE FAMILY**, starring Annabeth Gish, James Cromwell and John Slattery, has been filmed and is in post-production. The final production will be an adaptation of Esmeralda Santiago's coming-of-age memoir **ALMOST A WOMAN**.

In accepting the assignment, ALT pledged to make all five films in the United States, with American talent in front of and behind the cameras. In its mission statement, the company stated its intent to go beyond the standard "classics" and to film works that "illuminate and confirm American core values and recognize not only our diversity but also the common threads and experiences that bind us together."

ALT has provided complete access to its production process for the benefit of American educators, who are using the films and the books on which they are based in English classes across the country. CPB has funded an extensive Web site, created in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English, to which more than 2200 teachers have contributed. The site, which is found at ncteamericancollection.org, is a comprehensive destination for teachers of American literature, and is currently accessed by thousands of teachers each day.

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ABOUT . . .

"THE PONDER HEART"

Adapted from the novel by Eudora Welty

The Ponder Heart is a delightful short novel that captures all the sunny peculiarity of Eudora Welty's mystical and sometimes mythical Mississippi. As produced by Earl Hamner and Don Sipes for ALT Films, and directed on Mississippi locations by Martha Coolidge, the film version is true to Miss Welty's slightly skewed vision of a world where no good deed goes unpunished — and yet all is well in the end.

THE STORY

The Ponders are the richest family in Clay County, Mississippi, but their hold on that title is growing ever more tenuous as Uncle Daniel Ponder (Peter MacNicol) pursues his favorite pastime — giving his fortune away. As his perplexed niece, Edna Earle Ponder (JoBeth Williams), looks on, Uncle Daniel hands out everything from thrift shop dresses to the family gas station.

Driven to action, Edna Earle and Grandpa Ponder (Boyce Holleman) decide that what Uncle Daniel needs to settle him down is a wife. They choose their candidate, the cheerful Miss Teacake Magee (Joanne Baron), but Uncle Daniel has his own ideas, and when he shows up at his wedding he has a different bride on his arm: the young backwoods flower Bonnie Dee Peacock (Angela Bettis). The Peacocks are not held in the highest social regard, but Edna Earle determines to make the best of a bad situation.

Bonnie Dee, however, has ideas of her own. As the newly wealthy Mrs. Ponder, she blossoms in her luxurious surroundings and develops her own ideas about the best uses for Uncle Daniel's fortune. Just as tensions reach the breaking point, Bonnie Dee dies mysteriously in an enormous electrical storm.

Enter the Ponders' nemesis, ambitious lawyer Dorris Grabney (Brent Spiner), who brings Uncle Daniel to trial for the murder of his young wife. Defended by the well-meaning but largely inept DeYancey Clanahan (Lenny Von Dohlen), Uncle Daniel becomes the central figure in one of the most bizarre and hilarious murder trials in American fiction — a trial with an outcome that would have bewildered even Perry Mason.

THE CAST

Peter MacNicol (Uncle Daniel Ponder) came to moviegoers' attention with his brilliant performance opposite Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline in "Sophie's Choice" and went on to a career in features that includes "Heat," "Ghostbusters II," "Addams Family Values," "Bean," and many

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more. On television he is perhaps best known for his starring roles in "Chicago Hope" and "Ally McBeal." MacNicol is also a director, with episodes of "Ally McBeal" to his credit.

JoBeth Williams (Edna Earle Ponder) starred in "The Big Chill," the enormously successful series of "Poltergeist" films, "Kramer vs. Kramer," and Lawrence Kasdan's "Wyatt Earp," among other theatrical films. Her television credits began with "Feasting with Panthers" and also include four years on "The Guiding Light" and starring roles in such landmark films as "Adam," "The Day After," "My Name is Bill W." and "From the Earth to the Moon."

Angela Bettis (Bonnie Dee Peacock) won rave reviews nationwide for her role in the 1999 theatrical film "Girl, Interrupted." She made her film debut in Franco Zeffirelli's "Storia de una Capinera" (Story of a Sparrow), which also starred Vanessa Redgrave, Sinéad Cusack, and Valentina Cortese. She also starred in "The Last Best Sunday" (1999) and is slated to head an international cast in the upcoming film of the international best-selling novel "Perfume."

Jenifer Lewis (Narcisa Wingfield) has had important roles in a wide variety of films, including "Beaches," "Sister Act," "Poetic Justice," "Renaissance Man," "The Preacher's Wife," and the upcoming Robert Zemeckis movie, "Castaway." On Broadway she starred in "Dream Girls" and "Eubie," and on television she played a leading role in the mini-series "The Temptations" and was a series regular on "Living Color," "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," and "Murphy Brown."

Brent Spiner (Dorris Grabney) is known around the world as the compassionate android Data on "Star Trek: the Next Generation," a role he also played in three phenomenally successful "Star Trek" motion pictures. Spiner has also starred in a number of Broadway musicals, including "1776," "Big River," and "Sunday in the Park with George," as well as such films as "Independence Day" and Woody Allen's "Stardust Memories."

Lenny Von Dohlen (DeYancey Clanahan) was a regular in David Lynch's series "Twin Peaks" and also starred in the film "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me." His other theatrical films include Bruce Beresford's "Tender Mercies," Nicholas Roeg's "Cold Heaven," and Ed Zwick's "Leaving Normal." On television he has guest-starred in "Chicago Hope," "Thirtysomething," "Picket Fences," and the film "Kent State," and played a recurring role on "The Pretender."

BEHIND THE CAMERAS

Marian Rees (Executive Producer/principal, ALT Films) is one of television's most honored producers. As a principal in Marian Rees Associates, she was responsible for more than twenty-five motion pictures for television, many of which aired on the prestigious Hallmark Hall of Fame. In all, MRA-produced films have won eleven Emmy Awards including two for Best Motion Picture, and have received virtually every important television honor.

Anne Hopkins (Executive Producer/principal, ALT Films) is a partner in Marian Rees Associates, where she oversaw the development of virtually every film the firm created, including "Miss Rose White," "Love is Never Silent," "The Shell Seekers," and many others. On Broadway, she was part of the production team responsible for the Broadway hits "How to Be a Jewish Mother" and

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"Lovers and Other Strangers." She first worked with Marian Rees on the classic series *All in the Family*.

Stephen Kulczycki (Executive Producer/Principal, ALT Films) is a well-known public television programmer and production executive. He spent thirteen years at Los Angeles' public television station, KCET, where he was responsible for the development and/or production of *American Cinema*, *The Great War*, and *Searching for God in America*. He also co-executive produced or was executive-in-charge of two Emmy Award-winning family series, *The Puzzle Place* and *Storytime*.

Earl Hamner (producer) is probably best known as the creator, producer, and narrator of "The Waltons," one of television's finest and most-honored series, but he also created the hit series "Falcon Crest" and wrote the classic animated film of "Charlotte's Web." Hamner also wrote the landmark Christmas specials "The Homecoming" and "A Gift of Love," and wrote the novel *Spencer's Mountain*, later filmed with Henry Fonda.

Don Sipes (producer) is a partner in Hamner/Sipes Productions and one of television's most experienced program executives. A former president of Universal Television, MGM Film Company and Lorimar Productions, and a former Senior Vice President for Business Affairs and Planning at CBS, Sipes has overseen the development of hundreds of hours of television programming, including "Brewster Place" with Oprah Winfrey.

Gail Gilchrist (screenplay) is the screenwriter of this year's theatrical film "My Dog Skip," which she adapted from the novel by Willie Morris and of two other theatrical features, "Crazy Love" and "The Haunting of Hiram C. Hopgood." Her television work includes the Oprah Winfrey production "Welcome to the World, Baby Girl," a best-selling book, "The Cowgirl Companion," and the documentary version of the book, called "O Cowgirls."

Van Dyke Parks (composer) is best known to followers of American popular music for his seminal concept album "Song Cycle" and his many collaborations with Brian Wilson, most recently "Orange Crate Art." As a film composer he is responsible for the scores of "The Two Jakes," "Private Parts," "Bastard out of Carolina," "Wild Bill," and "The Harlan County War." Parks was born in Wely country, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Martha Coolidge (director) has made a number of successful, highly individual motion pictures, including "Real Genius," "Rambling Rose," "Lost in Yonkers," and "Angie." She began her directing career in 1972 with "David: Off and On," and followed it with, among others, "Not a Pretty Picture," which she also wrote. She has directed some high-profile television films, including "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" and a segment of the top-rated "If These Walls Could Talk."

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Bookends

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 F -3

Eudora's creations

Ponder Heart characters take center stage at literary festival

By Robin Miller

Features Reporter
NATCHES, Miss. — My uncle isn't anything like Edna Earle's. There again, there's only one Daniel Ponder.

Just as there's only one Eudora Welty, who penned those first words leading into her novella *The Ponder Heart*:

My Uncle Daniel's just like your uncle if you're got one — only he has one cousin. He loves society and he gets carried away.

Yes, Uncle Daniel is Welty's creation. So is Edna Earle, Daniel's niece that he's not so far behind him in age.

See, Edna Earle's father was the first child born to Grandpa and Grandma Ponder. Daniel came last, so they were born around the same time.

And they're here on this night in the Natchez City Auditorium.

Not Welty, but the creations of her imagination, Edna Earle and Daniel Ponder are here in the spirit of a film based on Welty's 1951 novella.

The word "based" is appropriate, because a few changes have been made in the story while transferring it from page to film. But a good screenplay writer knows how to make such changes and stay true to the original story.

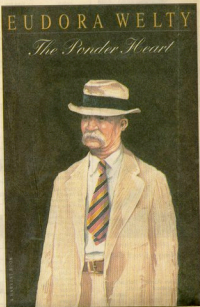
Such a screenplay writer was used in this case. Her name is Gail Gilchrist, and she, if anyone, knows how to rehash a good southern story by a revered southern writer without hacking it to pieces.

If there are any doubts, try renting the film version of late Mississippi author Willie Morris' *My Dog Skip*. Gilchrist wrote the screenplay for that film, too, and Morris was pleased with the result, having previewed it in New York only weeks before his death.

No one says whether Welty has been shown this film. She's 90 now and living in her childhood home in Jackson, Miss., where her parents filled rooms with clocks and books and staged the daily morning ritual of alternately whistling verses of *The Merry Widow* from whatever room they were in at the time. That's a good memory. It's Welty's, but it's still a memory.

She shares it in her 1984 book *One Writer's Beginnings*. A public-broadcasting documentary of the same title was shown in the auditorium earlier in the afternoon. It was produced a few years back, when Welty was still driving her beat places and twily welcoming visitors to her home.

Age has since had its way with her. She doesn't leave home so often anymore, taking train and plane trips across America.



and into Europe. She used to do this. Some of it is depicted in the documentary.

This documentary says something else about her. If she could, she'd be here tonight watching this film among these people, so many of them her readers.

Something also indicates that she would enjoy it, too.

But that's speculation. What's certain is Welty's the focus of the NLCC's activities on this day. Peggy Whitman Prensbaug lectured on Welty's work before the documentary, pointing out common themes in the author's novels, novellas and short stories.

The conclusion isn't as important as the things that end in between beginning and end, Prensbaug says.

People are separate, though they seek relationships. The relationships aren't as important as shared moments in time.

Prensbaug says that, too. She is a professor of English at Louisiana State University in

Baton Rouge and has edited several books of essays on Welty.

In other words, she's the expert, and her theories will come to life later in the showing of *"The Ponder Heart."* Take Uncle Daniel, for example.

There's no missing him. The story wouldn't exist without him.

Uncle Daniel finds joy in making people happy. He also finds joy in marrying Bonnie Dee Peacock.

And when she throws him out of the house, there's a certain joy in misery, because he at least knows where to find her. He reveals in the moments. He really doesn't ask for more.

Now, this is seen more in the book than in the movie. That's only natural, because books are able to offer more details.

Books also have that strange power of stirring the imagination, painting pictures in the mind. And each mind sees those pictures differently.

Which is the true beauty of books. Millions of people may be reading the same story at the same time, but each of these people experiences adventures as individual as their imaginations.

The Mississippi Center for the Book knows this. It chose *The Ponder Heart* for its first statewide project, "All Mississippi Reading the Same Book 2001."

No, this isn't a fancy title for a project, but its meaning is clear and simple. Anyone and everyone can understand it. It seems, too, that *The Ponder Heart* is a book Mississippians will appreciate.

Welty knows her state and how to capture its people in words. Of course this book was written about a small town from a different time.

The great thing about the South, though, is that there will always be characters. You can probably still drive into a little town such as Welty's fictional Clay and find an Uncle Daniel or a Judge Tip Clarnahan, who really isn't a judge at all.

Or a widowed Tennessee Magee who was married to a Professor Magee, who really wasn't a professor. He was just really smart.

Again, that's the beauty of books, the beauty of good authors — they capture time, people and places. And Mississippi is promoting reading in its state, beginning with this story.

The Mississippi Center for the Book has entered a partnership with the Library of Congress and the Mississippi Library Commission in conducting this project.

Even Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove is promoting it, having held a paperback copy of *The Ponder Heart* before quite a large audience a few nights before, explaining how he, the Center for the Book and others are trying to encourage all Mississippians to read this book.

He wasn't there to promote the project; he was there to bestow the NLCC's highest honor, the Richard Wright Award for Library Excellence, on his friend, best-selling novelist John Grisham.

But Musgrove took the time to tell about the project. It's obviously important to him. Which is so refreshingly good.

Sure Mississippi has its problems with budget and education, but it's promoting reading. And among its so very rich crop of writers, Welty tops this reading list.

So Welty's presence is in this building in strong right now. Doesn't make sense, does it? Yes it does.

She may not be here, but the spirit of her writing is. People are gathered here to see this film, which will be shown nationwide next fall as part of PBS's ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theatre's American Collection.

Now, though, the big screen is stretched across the municipal auditorium's stage. This is a time to celebrate not only a Mississippi writer, but the film made from her work.

And what a celebration it is. Earl Hamner, best known for his novel *Spencer's Mountain*, is here. For those who haven't yet made the connection, *Spencer's Mountain* is the basis for the long running 1970s television series, "The Waltons."

Remember the narration before and after each program? Well, that's Hamner's voice.

It's his distinctive timbre that's heard tonight as he talks about his lifelong love for Welty and her work.

His story is comical, telling how he'd once learned that Welty had missed her plane and was stuck for hours at the Los Angeles airport. He sent her a letter with his phone number instructing her to call him the next time it happened.

He'd be there, he says, with books, magazines and something for her to eat. He'd keep her company until her plane arrived.

Of course she never called, but Hamner's story is funny all the same.

He adds that he saw the Broadway production of *The Ponder Heart* some years back. Yes, the novella was once a play. This is the first time the story has been translated to film.

And what a great finale this is for the NLCC. This is the first year the word "canaan" has appeared in its title. It's simply been the Natchez Literary Celebration for 11 years.

This film brings together everything on which the NLCC is now focusing. Southern writers and films made from those southern stories.

The lights dim, the credits appear on the screen and the first words of the dialogue are heard:

"My Uncle Daniel's just like your uncle if you've got one —"

For more information on the Mississippi Center for the Book's "All Mississippi Reading the Same Book 2001" program, visit www.book.ks.us.

The *Ponder Heart* by Eudora Welty, \$10, A Harvest Book, Harcourt, Inc., can be found in local bookstores. Features reporter Robin Miller's e-mail address is rmiller@shawntalk.com.

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John and Valerie Bergeron, Gerald McRaney



Presentation of gift to William Winter by Carolyn Vance Smith



John Bergeron, Gerald McRaney, Barry Phillips



Barry Phillips and Earl Hamner



Bill Minor and Barry Phillips

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SUNDAY, FEB. 25, 2001

All events at *Copiah-Lincoln Community College*
Workshops for Writers (520) Choose one.
Participants are invited to bring original man-
uscripts. (Tickets for sale at the door.)

9:30 a.m. Continental breakfast with coffee,
juice, muffins

10 a.m.-12 noon

* "Straight News, Columns, and Editorials:
Tips on Writing for Newspapers," Bill Minor,
journalist, Jackson, Miss., to be introduced by
Mark LaFrance, Director of Public
Relations, Copiah-Lincoln Community
College, Natchez, Miss.

* "The Nuts and Bolts of Poetry Writing,"
Jerry Ward, published poet and editor of
poetry volumes, Tougaloo (Miss.) College, to
be introduced by Paul Brooks, Professor of English, Alcorn State
University, Lorman, Miss.

* "Play Writing Made Easy," David Zimman, playwright, Ft. Loomis, N.Y.,
to be introduced by Barbara Haight, Instructor of English, Copiah-Lincoln
Community College, Natchez, Miss.

* "Structure and Format: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," S.
Dixon McDowell, Chair, Department of Radio, Television, and Film,
University of Southern Mississippi, to be introduced by Judy Daniels
Wiggins, Instructor of English, Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
Natchez, Miss.



Minor



Ward



Zimman



McDowell

ADMIT ONE - 520

Natchez Evening and Evening Celebration

WRITING WORKSHOP

9:30-10 a.m. Continental Breakfast

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Writing Workshop

Sun., Feb. 25, 2001

Copiah-Lincoln Community
College, 11 Co-Lin Circle, Natchez

February 25, 2001



Left to right: Juliet Wesberry, Rosie Bates, Sue Fountain, Millicent Mayo, Bill Minor, Leola
Burkhart, Susan Calton, and Sherry O'Malley.

Natchez Public School Teachers
With Bill Minor at Writing Workshop

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Region

The Democrat

Sunday, February 25, 2001

Literary and Cinema Celebration winds up today with workshops

By APRIL WORTHAM
The Natchez Democrat

The 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration has drawn its largest crowds ever with more than 3,000 people attending as of Saturday afternoon, said Carolyn Vance Smith, celebration co-chairman.

Natchez

Moving the event from early summer to February has positively impacted attendance by allowing area students and teachers to participate, Smith said. "They've come by the bus-load," she said.

In addition to the support of local high schools and sponsors Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Alcorn University, Smith said she has seen delegations from Jackson State University, Coahoma Community College, the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and the University of Mississippi.

The addition of cinema to the celebration has also drawn new faces, said Peggy Whitman Preshaw, professor of English at Louisiana State University and author of several books on Mississippi author, the late Eudora Welty.

"We've become such a visual people," Preshaw said.



Today's Schedule

All events at Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Workshops for Writers (\$20) Choose one. Participants are invited to bring original manuscripts. (Tickets for sale at the door.)

9:30 a.m. Continental breakfast with coffee, juice, muffins

10 a.m. - noon

► "Straight News, Columns, and Editorials: Tips on Writing for Newspapers," Bill Minor, journalist, Jackson, to be introduced by Mark LaFrancis, Director of Public Relations, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez.

► "The Nuts and Bolts of Poetry Writing," Jerry Ward, published poet and editor of poetry volumes, Tougaloo College, to be introduced by Paul Broome, Professor of English, Alcorn State University, Lorman.

► "Play Writing Made Easy," David Zimman, playwright, Point Lookout, N.Y., to be introduced by Barbara Haigh, instructor of English, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez.

► "Structure and Format: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," S. Dixon McDowell, Chair, Department of Radio, Television, and Film, University of Southern Mississippi, to be introduced by Judy Daniels Wiggins, instructor of English, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez.

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1. Name facets of the 2001 Celebration you most enjoyed:

2. What do you wish were different about the Celebration?

3. Evaluate the physical arrangements of the event by circling your response:

City Center:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	N/A
City Auditorium:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	N/A
Tour sites:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	N/A

4. Have you attended a Celebration before? (Circle answer.) Yes No If yes, how many? _____

5. What do you wish could be added to future Celebrations?

6. Please use the rest of this sheet for questions, compliments, complaints, comments, and names and addresses of people to be added to the NLCC mailing list. Thank you.

Optional signature and phone number

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The Natchez Democrat

www.natchezdemocrat.com

Monday, February 26, 2001

Literary fest enjoys highest attendance

By APRIL WORTHAM
The Natchez Democrat

"See you again next year,"
Compliments and words of thanks marked the end of the 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Sunday.

The five-day event concluded with workshops led by the week's speakers, as well as the entire celebration, were an all-out success with the highest attendance since the celebration began in 1988.

Smith said the only complaints were from people wishing they could have attended more sessions, especially the morning workshops which were held simultaneously. "The people who come are so thirsty and want to drink up all they can," she said.

The conference drew participants from as far away as California, Washington and New York, she said.

Smith and other organizers will now begin the task of planning for next year, beginning with sorting through evaluation forms filled out by speakers and attendees.

"We're always looking for improvement because that is growth," Smith said. "We think we have a winner, but we want to keep being a winner."

Dr. Ronnie Nettles, dean of Copiah-Lincoln's Natchez campus, said rescheduling the event to February from early summer was a positive move, allowing more student and teacher participation.

"(The celebration) exposes our students here to things they would not get to be a part of otherwise," Nettles said. "There are students at larger universities who don't have an opportunity like this."

Nettles said the challenge now is to find a way to "out do" this year's celebration.



Opinion

The Democrat

Our Opinion

Start the week with some good news

Good morning. As Mardi Gras celebrations wind down and many people in the Miss-Lou prepare for the season of Lent, as well as another week of work and school, we pause to look back at the good news from last week.

► The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was, by all accounts, a great success. Two significant changes marked this year's celebration: a move from June to February and the addition of film as a major component.

Celebration co-chairman and founder

Carolyn Vance Smith said the event saw its biggest crowds ever, with more than 3,000 people attending.

Full of compliments on everything from the attentive audiences to the hospitality of residents, the speakers seem to have enjoyed their stay in town as much as celebration participants enjoyed their seminars.

Congratulations, and

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on this or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor to The Democrat by:

► E-mail: stacy.garing@natchezdemocrat.com
► Fax: (601) 442-7315
► Mail: P.O. Box 1467, Natchez, Miss. 39121

► Or in person: 502 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information for more information, call 442-5539.

thanks, to all involved.

► Natchez may finally become home to a Boys & Girls Club, thanks to funding from the state attorney general's office. According to a spokesman in the attorney general's office, the facility will be a reality, but it also needs local funds and support.

► The Krewe of Phoenix parade rolled through downtown once again Friday, with heads and good cheer for everyone who lined the streets. The preparation involved in the annual celebration is a challenge, krewe members say, but one that seems worth it for all involved.

Here's hoping you and your family have good news throughout the week.

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Don Marion, Dr. Carl Davis, Ms. Mary Kate Garvin, Dr. Norris Edney, Kenneth Taylor, and West Primary staff listen as students read to them during an "Author's Tea."

West honors School Board members at a tea

By TARA BROOKS

West Primary honored the School Board during an "Author's Tea" on Friday, February 23rd. Each Class created their own books and two children from each class were chosen to read their book to the School Board. Under the direction of Bobbye Wynn, three first grade classes sang to the School Board. Dr. Davis was very impressed and requested an encore.

After the students finished their productions, the School

Board enjoyed King Cake, cookies and punch in the library which was decorated in a Mardi Gras "Motif"

We would like to thank all of the people who took time out of their busy schedules to come and visit West: Dr. Carl Davis, Ms. Mary Kate Garvin, Mrs. Millicent Mayo, Mr. Don Marion, Dr. Norris Edney, and Mr. Kenneth Taylor. We hope that they will feel free to stop and visit anytime.

Welcome to Tim Vestal, a student teacher at Fallin Career & Tech Center with Frank Dungan, Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics teacher.



School Board member, Mr. Terry Estes; Dr. Carl Davis; Mayor Hank Smith; School Board members, Mr. Don Marion and Dr. Norris Edney; School Board President, Mr. Kenneth Taylor; and Ms. Mary Kate Garvin are shown at the February meeting honoring school board members during School Board Member Recognition Week. Not pictured is school board member, Ms. Camille Jackson.

West has Mardi Gras parade

By TARA BROOKS

West Primary had a parade to celebrate Mardi Gras. The Pre-School and Kindergarten students decorated bikes, wagons, and other motorized vehicles to participate in the parade. Each class also made masks to celebrate the holiday.

"Sparky", the Natchez

Fire Departments motorized mascot was the Grand Marshall of the parade. He led the students around the parade route throwing beads to the first graders.

Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed participating in the parade.



Bulldog Stars



Adams County Spelling Bee held at Braden. Page 3



Three teachers receive National Board Certification. Page 3



Frazier has a Science Fair. Page 5

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page 98

From the Desk of Dr. Carl Davis:



We welcomed Craig Langnes, our new School Board Member, who joined us on March 8, 2001. Mr. Langnes was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on Monday, February 26, 2001. We will miss Mr. Terry Estes and deeply appreciate the time and effort he has devoted to the Natchez-Adams School District.

We are glad the district could play a part in the Natchez Literary and Film Celebration held on February 21-25, 2001 at the Natchez Community Center and the Multi-Purpose Building.

I had the privilege of being introduced by former Governor William Winter, and I introduced several well-known authors, film writers, film makers, and producers. The attendance was great! Two hundred fifty students from the Natchez School District and the other surrounding schools attended the conference for a total of 600 students. We appreciate all of those who made it possible for our children to experience this great festival.

TRACKING THE SUPERINTENDENT...

February 1	Workshop/Jackson
February 2	Visit to McLaurin
February 7	Rotary
February 8	Board Meeting
February 12	State Superintendent's Committee of Practitioner on Assessment and Accountability
February 13	Meeting at Braden
February 14	SpEd Advisory Meeting
February 15	AASA Meeting
February 16	AASA Meeting
February 17	AASA Meeting
February 18	AASA Meeting
February 21	Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
	Natchez Literary and Film Celebration
February 22	Technology Advisory/State Department/ Natchez Literary Celebration
February 27	Meeting at McLaurin/NMS

Frazier and I.P. host talent show

By SUSAN MINGEE

Frazier Primary School and it's Partner in Education, International Paper-Natchez Mill, along with the support of the Frazier PTA will host it's second annual Talent Show on Friday, March 30th at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$1.00 per person at the door. Talent will be provided by Frazier students, faculty, and employees of International Paper. A concession stand will be open for snacks. Join us for a fun-filled night!



These students (from left to right) Christopher Spencer, Christopher Cotton, Demetrius Morgan, Timothy Dyer, Thomas Williams, Jarriss Williams, Germanie Davis, KeOnnia Williams, Jeremy Dixon, Alia Frank, Asrael Fletcher, and Javonia Riggs make up the newly organized Renaissance Club at Morgantown Elementary. Mr. Ryan Curry started the club to promote the arts in school. It was open to students in grades 2-6. Members were selected by submitting an art portfolio of twenty original works of art and an essay composition entitled "Why I want to be in the Renaissance Club". These students were chosen because of their skill, desire and good behavior.



Juliet Wesberry, Rosie L. Bates, Sue Fountain, Millicent Mayo, Leola Burkhart, Susan Callon, and Sherry O'Malley are shown with Bill Minor (center), presenter of the newspaper writing workshop on the last day of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Lights, Camera, Action!

By MILLICENT MAYO

Lights, Camera, Action was this years theme for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Employees of the Natchez-Adams School District enjoyed the literary activities and received CEU credit. On Sunday morning, all were involved in poetry writing, screen writing, newspaper writing, or play writing workshops taught by out-

standing professionals.

The highlight of the five day festival was the Richard Wright Awards Ceremony honoring Bill Minor and John Grisham. On Saturday night, the premiere of the film "The Ponder Heart," based on the book by Eudora Welty, was shown. Everyone that attended the Literary Celebration enjoyed the events.

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Opinion

The Democrat

Our Opinion

Literature, film and economic development?

The phrase "Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration" won't conjure images of smokestacks or factories, but it is nonetheless a critical component of economic development.

The nationally recognized celebration, which expanded this year to include film as well as Southern literature, drew hundreds of people to Natchez, from places as far away as the East Coast and California.

With them, these participants and visitors brought a wealth of experiences and ideas, a wealth of insight and knowledge, and a wealth

Speak out

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All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 445-3539.

of opportunities to connect Natchez with the outside world.

And, in large part, that, is what economic development is all about.

We talk often, and repeatedly, about bringing industry to our community. We talk often, and desperately, about the need for a new plant, for new jobs, for new earnings opportunities.

And we should talk often, and equally as passionately, about the literary and cinema celebration; about the annual opera festival; about the annual antiques forum; about the annual Great Mississippi River Balloon Races; about tourism and history ... all of which enhance the quality of life for residents who live here and, more important, draw people to Natchez.

Our community is blessed with so many talents and treasures to build upon and challenged with an equal number of old habits and self-defeating attitudes to overcome.

And in the name of economic development — in the interest of building a better life for each of the residents of our area — we need to continue to seek out those strengths and capitalize on them — whether they be tourism of literary and film celebrations — while we work to minimize those weaknesses.



The
University of Mississippi
Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

March 2, 2001

Center for the Study of Southern Culture
Post Office Box 1848
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(662) 915-5993
Fax: (662) 915-5814
E-mail: cssc@olemiss.edu
URL: <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/south>

TO: Center Advisory Committee and Executive Council
FROM: Charles Wilson Reagan *CR*
SUBJECT: Minutes from the February 24, 2001 Meeting in Natchez

Enclosed are minutes from our meeting in Natchez. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy some of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration events during this trip. For those of us coming from points north, wasn't it fine to see signs of real spring, like the camellias in full bloom at the Calhouns' home?

Speaking of the Calhouns, our thanks to them for sponsoring the pre-meeting dinner last Friday, along with their co-hosts Lynn and Stewart Gammill, Sandra Simpson, and Carolyn Vance and Marion Smith.

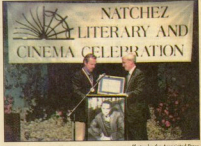
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE
Executive Council and Center Advisory Committee Meeting
Callon Building, Natchez, Mississippi.
February 24, 2001 – Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Julie Gillespie Adkisson, Henry Brevard, Ruth Ellen Calhoun, Lynn Gammill, Sarah Dabney Gillespie, Al and Libby Hollingsworth, Sherry Jones, Jack McLarty, G. Rives Neblett, Noel Polk, Mary Jane Lupberger Redman, Byron and Cameron Seward, Sandra Simpson, Carolyn Vance Smith, Phineas and Pat Stevens, George Thatcher, Gerald Walton, Charles Wilson, Ann Abadie, Lesley Urgo.

Guests: Beth Brevard, Betty Love McLarty, Eleanor Schnabel, Julie Walton.

Charles Wilson welcomed the group to the meeting, held in conjunction with the events of the week-long Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. **Carolyn Vance Smith**, organizer of this event, was lauded by **Wilson** for another fine meeting. University of Mississippi Professor of English and Faulkner Conference director **Donald Kartiganer** took part in the Celebration, speaking on Friday evening along with actor **Gerald McRaney**, who read from Faulkner's *The Reivers*. Friday evening the Center and its Executive Council and Center Advisory Committee benefited from the generosity of **Ruth Ellen and Bill Calhoun**, who hosted a dinner party at their home, Elgin Plantation. Co-hosts for the party were **Lynn and Stewart Gammill, Sandra Simpson, and Carolyn Vance and Marion Smith**. It was a treat to see the camellias in full bloom! Today's lunch at the Callon Building is another treat, as we view the banks of the Mississippi from the third floor of this historic downtown Natchez building, thanks to John Callon of the Callon Petroleum Company.

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Photos by the Associated Press

Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove (right) presents best selling novelist John Grisham with the Wright Award for Literary Excellence.

Bill Minor (left), a 53 year veteran of journalism receives the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence from former Mississippi Gov. William Winter on Feb. 22 at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

A night a real her was honored

By Robin Miller
 Features Reporter
 NATCHEZ, Miss. — I'm reminded of two pairs of feet while standing here, one in tennis shoes, the other in hot pink socks strapped in white sandals.

I was sitting on the steps on the far right of the Natchez City Auditorium. It's beautiful now, but it was grand even then, before the renovations that have given it cushy seats and polish on the hardwood floor. I saw the first catch the eye. Then there are the white, marble like steps. And I was sitting along the steps on the far right when I saw the feet. I wasn't looking at anything in particular. The sun was hot on my arms as they hugged my knees in my chair. That was when the Natchez Literary Celebration was staged the first weekend in June.

In fact, that's how it had been for 11 years until now, when the Natchez Literary Celebration was changed to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration and moved up to February.

Which is fine. More than fine, in fact, because the change in name has added new dimensions to this literary gathering. The celebration each year focuses on themes within the southern literary landscape. Women in southern literature took center stage one year, another year it was southern born music, religion in another.

Writers with southern roots were invited to the conferences to discuss these themes. The celebration was expanded this year with the addition of films — films associated with southern writers, films featuring southern themes, films from original screenplays by southern writers.

So, the literary celebration officially celebrated on Feb. 22-23 at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Its theme was "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South."

The theme's appropriate when thinking about how many southern works have been translated to the big screen, some stories true, some stories fictionally written from the imagination yet all possessing that distinctive southern flavor.

It's sort of like gumbo. A gumbo's taste is distinctive depending on who's making it. Still, it's gumbo, a definite byproduct of this region.

For now, though, I stand in front of the Natchez Municipal Auditorium thinking not of gumbo but of time here a few years ago, sitting on the steps, waiting.

Waiting for what? Well, I know I wasn't waiting for the presentation of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards, as so I am on this evening. No, the awards had already been presented on the day I was sitting on the steps.

On this particular evening, the awards will be presented to best selling novelist John

Commentary

Grisham and Musgrove's living legend of a journalist Bill Minor.

Referring to Minor as a living legend is no exaggeration. And to be honest, he'll be the real star here tonight.

Oh, people will crowd this auditorium to see Grisham. They'll wait for that moment when Grisham's longtime friend, Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, presents him with the Wright medal.

They will sparkle

Grisham and Musgrove will literally sparkle, as they did when they were wide-eyed law students together at the University of Mississippi. And again when they were youthful legislators in the early 1960s.

Musgrove will resemble about his early days with Grisham, label his friend one of the true great American novelists then present Grisham, with the Wright award. He'll also say his current book *A Painted House* is being hailed by critics while sitting atop the best sellers list.

That hasn't been the case in the past. Critics have shrugged off Grisham's books as formula legal thrillers. Apparently the comments have bothered Grisham. He'll say, above all else, his real interest is selling books. A lot of them. Yet he'll also say that he took a less respectable road than that taken by many southern writers, one of commerce.

He'll also say he wrote *A Painted House* hoping for critical praise. The book was actually published as a series last year in the Grisham-owned, regional literary magazine the Oxford American.

So who knows? Maybe Grisham seeks a certain literary respectability. He has no problem getting such respect from his peers. They're here to see him tonight.

There are at least three recognizable faces walking through the auditorium's front doors. One belongs to Natchez novelist Greg Iles, who's building his own fan base with thrillers and mysteries filled with a good helping of southern gothic.

Then there's Mississippi poet Sterling Plumpp, a 1996 winner of the Wright award. And in the middle of it all is Josephine Hixson, known to her readers as Ellen Douglas. She has Alexandria ties as well as Mississippi roots. She is also a past winner of the Wright award.

Yes, they're here tonight to watch their fellow Mississippi writers receive their share. That's what the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence is about after all, honoring writers who have done Mississippi justice. Grisham was born in Arkansas but grew up in Mississippi. Bill Minor has spent 35 years of his journalistic career in Mississippi, covering and chronicling life in this state.

These years included the civil rights battles of the 1960s.

Those were turbulent times, and Minor told it like it was. He stood up for civil rights and wasn't popular for doing so.

He wasn't the only journalist to do this. But he's the only journalist here tonight receiving the Wright award.

And I'm not pining him as the real star of this show because he's a journalist. I don't know many journalists these days who I would place on that pedestal.

The profession is so different from the times Minor started out. The Writers' time, in so many businesses, is still priority. Newswriting seems to revolve more in the sensational rather than the practical.

The general cynicism these days is attracting youthful attention, and the only way to do that is by way of flash and glamour. I would like to hear Minor's take on that. I would just be told it like it is — it's called dumbing down.

One thing Minor doesn't do and has never done is dumb down his writing. He's almost 80, and his columns are still probably the strongest voice in so many Mississippi newspapers.

He doesn't bother with flash. He could care less about what Eminem might have said at the Grammys, that is, unless Eminem said something to directly affect the welfare of Mississippi.

He's the real hero

He's the real hero. He's a monument to real journalism — writing about his state, knowing its leaders past and present and not letting them get away with anything.

But at the same time, he distributes praise where praise is due.

Grisham, Minor will say later, was one of those leaders. Grisham and two other newly elected legislators entered the Mississippi House of Representatives with new ideas and determination to change things. Minor wrote about it.

Grisham and the others were successful in pushing through their changes.

Gov. William Winter was another of those leaders. Winter, a mainstay at the Natchez Literary Celebration, continues to be a recognizable face at what is now the Literary and Cinema Celebration. He was governor from 1980 to 1984 and did much to improve racial relations in Mississippi.

He's a hero, too.

And I'll admit, neither of these men sparkle. Winter will present Minor with the Wright award, and the fanfare will generate less electricity.

True, Winter is no longer governor and hasn't been for quite a while. True, movies haven't been made of Minor's work.

True, these two men will appear more dusty than shiny, but there's honor in this dust. It's the dust one accumulates from work

ing hard not to get to the top but to make things better.

So it will be quite a night, watching as Grisham and Minor are presented these awards. Grisham's presence generates most of the excitement here, and I think this is a good thing. It's nice to know so many people — not just writers among them — will turn out to see of "The West Wind." They're here to see a writer.

A southern writer — a Mississippi writer. One of their own who has made good for him self, and in doing so, translated his Mississippi stories into 28 languages for all the world to read.

Better yet, they'll be exposed to Bill Minor while here. Even Grisham will call Minor a personal hero. He'll be proud when saying it, too.

Maybe the people here will make more of a special effort to read Minor's columns after this night's festivities. Maybe they'll take to heart what he says and try to take their own steps in improving their state.

I don't know. I'm just speculating. But all of this will come later.

No, right now, I look at the step on the far right, and I think of a couple of my own heroes. The feet that came into my view while sitting on those steps those few years ago belonged to these heroes.

The feet in the tennis shoes standing next to those in the hot pink socks.

I listened to their conversation for awhile, not looking up at first. I didn't know the people they were talking about.

But then something caught my attention. I don't know what, but something.

And I looked up.

And standing above me in the tennis shoes was one of my all-time favorite writers, Willie Morris. He was talking to Ellen Douglas in the hot pink socks.

Willie met my gaze as I looked up at him. "Well," he said, "There's of Robin."

We had come to know each other over time, and yes, there sat of Robin. And here she stands on this night, thinking of that day, watching as some of her writer heroes enter the auditorium.

Ellen is here. Willie isn't.

But my special memory is.

John Grisham's book, *A Painted House*, \$27, Doubleday, is available at local bookstores. A book of selected columns by Bill Minor will be released later this year. Features reporter Robin Miller's e-mail address is rmiller@shawtmail.com.

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In Co-LiN *The Place to Be* ATCHEZ **CO LIN**

March 2001



Wright Award Winners: Above left, author John Grisham, left, receives the Richard Wright Literary Excellence award from Gov. Ronnie Musgrove during the annual award ceremony of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Feb. 22. Above right, columnist Bill Minor, left, receives the award from former Gov. William Winter, director of proceedings for the NLCC.

NLCC attracts record audience to city, Co-Lin

The premiere of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was a hit, according to organizers and participants.

For four-and-a-half days - Feb. 21 through 25 - participants were treated to an in-depth look at literature as it relates to the South and film-making in the South.

A highlight of the event came Thursday, Feb. 22, when internationally acclaimed author John Grisham and veteran columnist Bill Minor, both of Mississippi, received the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award. Hundreds watched the presentations at the Natchez City Auditorium.

Theme for this year's event was "Fact, Fiction and Film: The Genius of the South."



Black History Program: Lolita Toles Kendall, left, portrays Sojourner Truth, while Laura Winston portrays Rosa Parks, both leaders for civil rights, during the annual Black History Program, which drew a large audience.

Registration to begin for summer and fall

Next month, students may begin registering for summer classes. Co-Lin will offer two summer day terms and one summer night term.

Currently enrolled students may begin registering on April 23. Open registration begins on May 14.

The first day term will be June 4 through 29; the second day term will be July 5 through 31, and the evening term will be June 4 through July 31.

Cost is \$60 per semester hour tuition, and \$5 per semester hour technology fee for Mississippi residents. Cost for out-of-state students is \$135 per semester hour tuition, and \$5 per semester hour technology fee.

A complete schedule is available in the admissions and vocational-technical offices.

Fall registration will be March 26 through April 20 for currently enrolled students. General registration will be June 6 through Aug. 3. Classes start Aug. 13.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records or the Vocational-Technical office.

Stoll selected to national team

Sophomore Tricia Stoll has been chosen to the national Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Second Team. Only 60 students nationally are chosen for one of the top three teams although more than 1,500 are nominated. She will be listed in the April 5 edition of *USA Today*, a co-sponsor of the program.

Stoll, an education major, is involved with several campus clubs and organizations, including Future Teachers Club, PTK and *N-Sights*.

The big 5-0

Pat Cater, secretary to the dean, grins as she holds her balloons and leans on a walker during the recent 50th birthday party the staff gave her. Behind her is instructor Sue Savino, one of many staff members who participated in the birthday celebration.



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A victor emerges: Gov. William Winter and his wife, Elsie, greet a crowd in Jackson, Miss., after he won the governorship in 1908.

Atlanta Journal-
Constitution
April 1, 2001

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William Winter
was the Southern governor that every
other Southern governor aspired to be.

Former Georgia Gov. ZELL MILLER, now a U.S. senator



ORIS CAMPBELL/Florida



Longform Mississippi journalist Bill Minor (left) receives the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award from former Gov. William Winter in February at the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in Natchez, Miss.

At left, Winter keeps in shape with an early morning jog in his southeast Jackson neighborhood.

From: Ronnie Nettles
To: Davis, Natalie; NAT Faculty and Staff
Date: 4/2/01 8:34AM
Subject: Monday Update 4/02/01

Faculty and Staff:

* I received information a few days ago about a "Service-Learning Summit" at Hinds Community College on April 20. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the development of service-learning programs at community colleges in Mississippi. Let me know if you would like additional information about service-learning or would be interested in attending the meeting.

* Please keep Board of Trustees Chairman, Dr. James Stribling in your thoughts and prayers. Dr. Stribling started his chemotherapy treatments two weeks ago.

* Also remember Dr. Robert Smith's mother, Randall Newell's wife, and Dr. Billy Stewart. All were hospitalized recently.

* I'll be traveling to Wesson on Monday to attend Dr. Garner's staff meeting and again on Thursday to attend the Board of Trustees meeting.

* Dr. Garner and Dr. Johnson will be on campus tomorrow at 2:00 pm in the Lecture Hall to discuss budget and finance matters with all faculty and staff. This meeting will take the place of our monthly professional staff and support staff meetings.

* We have a new Board of Trustees member from Adams County. Michael Washington works at B&K bank and is a Co-Lin Natchez graduate.

* Co-Lin Natchez will host a group of local high school teachers and librarians for lunch Wednesday. Please make them feel welcome.

* The Journalism Symposium is this Thursday. We are expecting between 175 and 200 high school students from throughout the Co-Lin District.

* Congratulations to the 20 students who were selected to join the new chapter of the National Vocational and Technical Honor Society last week. Mrs. Judy Heard and Sue Savino will be the advisors for this new group.

* On-May 1, 2001 the Co-Lin Foundation will be hosting a golf tournament at Beau Pre' to raise funds for Natchez campus endowed scholarships and funds. Please let your golfing friends know about this tournament that will benefit our campus. Non-golfers can also help by making donations or sponsoring holes in the tournament.

HELP - I am looking for a few volunteers (no golf knowledge necessary) who would be willing to help make this event successful. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP.

* Congratulations to Mrs. Jan Byrne's son Robert Priester Byrne. Priester married Jenna Tilghman on March 25, in Oxford.

* ETV will feature highlights of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration on their First Friday broadcast, scheduled for April 6, 2001, at 8:30 p.m. ←

* Congratulations to Mark LaFrancis and the N-Sights staff on receiving several awards at the Mississippi Press Association meeting last week. Student winners for various categories included Angela McKey, Theresa Thornton, Danielle Saxon, Gary McKey, Nikki Terry, Erin Smith, and Trish Stoll. Many of these students placed in more than one category. We need to also congratulate Wolf Tales (Wesson Campus)

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Natchez The Democrat

Friday, April 27, 2001

www.natchezdemocrat.com

50 cents

State, Indians give local tourism \$53,000 shot in the arm

By APRIL WORTHAM
The Natchez Democrat

Local tourism recently got a \$53,000 boost thanks to a partnership of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Mississippi Division of Tourism.

Laura Godfrey, Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau public relations director, said the CVB was recently awarded three Tribal-State Compact Grants: \$10,000 for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, \$22,000 for a

Natchez

permanent Spanish exhibit at the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture and \$11,307 for a new Natchez event organized by local chef Regina Thosclair Charbonnet — the Great River Roads Food Festival.

"With this kind of funding, we're able to do more of these kind of events," Godfrey said.

Shirley Wheatley, NAPAAC director, said the exhibit at the museum will help "to continue to show the relationship between the (Spanish and Black) races and how important the African-American community was to the success of the cotton industry in Natchez and Southwest Mississippi."

Historian Carvill Telf, a curator with the Old Capital Museum, is designing the exhibit for the museum, incorporating traditional farm implements with

photographs and narratives.

Literary and Cinema Celebration founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith said their portion of the grant money will most likely be used to offset "honorarium" costs, such as speaker fees, travel expenses and printed materials, such as brochures, flyers and other advertisements.

Through 10,000 direct mail brochures, organizers promote the event to others outside of Mississippi and the South.

"And that's one of the things (the grant suppliers) want, is to have an impact not only on Mississippi, but to bring in people from other states," Smith said.

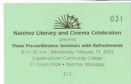
Celebration co-chairman Bob Dodson with the National Park Service said the Choctaw Indians' interest in the literary and cinema celebration is two-fold.

"They see the value of bringing people to the state of Mississippi," Dodson said. "And hope some of them will visit their facilities."

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Opinion

The Democrat

Monday, April 30, 2001

Our Opinion

Begin the week on a good news note

Good morning and good Monday. As we begin another week of work and school we pause to remember some of the good news from our community last week.

► Natchez-Adams School District administrators announced the district will receive a grant for more than \$185,000. The Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant will help fund the purchase of equipment for a networking class.

► The Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau was recently awarded a \$53,000 shot in the arm to local tourism efforts. The funding will help create a permanent Spanish exhibit at the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture and funds will help pay for portions of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration and the Great River

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on this or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor to The Democrat by:

► E-mail: stacy.graning@natchezdemocrat.com

► Fax: (601) 442-7315

► Mail: P.O. Box 1447, Natchez, Miss., 39121

► Or in person: 503 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 445-3539.

Roads Food Festival.

► Vidalia High School received a \$25,000 technology grant this week. The Rapides Foundation grant will provide technology training for teachers.

► The Natchez Chapter of the Loyal Order of the Moose celebrated its 50th anniversary this week. The group has spent half a century giving back to the community, and their work is much appreciated.

► Congratulations to the ABATE group for organizing another successful Airshow and Motorcycle Extravaganza. The annual event raising money for Natchez's Sunshine Shelter for Abused and Neglected Children.

We hope your week is filled with lots of good news for you and your family.



BOOK IT!

The award-winning 13TH annual

NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION

Natchez, Mississippi

FEB. 27-MAR. 3, 2002

CREATIVITY IN THE SOUTH: A LIVING LEGACY

- Free lectures
- Free films
- Related tours
- Exhibits, book signings, writing workshops, and more!

FOR INFORMATION

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1-601-446-6345

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi
Department of Archives and History, and
Alcorn State University

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William Winter Scholars 2001

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NEWS from Natchez

The Natchez Campus was the scene of several major events in the spring of 2001, including its largest graduating class ever on May 11.

The 29th commencement was held at the First Baptist Church in Natchez. Dr. Howell C. Corner presented degrees and certificates, while Dr. Paul Johnson presided over the Class of 2001.

Awards Night was held on April 17 and the highlight was the induction of three students - Dee Dee Dymore, Terry Bullen and April Coel into the Co-Lin Natchez Hall of Fame. Also, scholarships were awarded, department achievements were honored and club and organization leader awards were announced.

The third annual Colwood Faire la Renaissance style fair was held on April 11. Music, dances, games, chess, food and sporting events of the Renaissance period were features of the fair. Some 300 students and staff participated in the event sponsored by the English Department. The Natchez High School Musical Singers performed and Cathedral School students put on a puppet play. Other local schools sent some students to participate.

Co-Lin co-sponsored the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Feb. 21-22; the first time a cinema component was part of the event. Among the highlights was the awarding of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to two Mississippi writers: John Grisham, novelist, (shown to right) and Bill Minor, political columnist and journalist. In their acceptance speeches, both spoke highly of the celebration and its contribution to literature.

Minor was among several professionals who presented workshops at the Natchez campus as part of the celebration.

Another highlight was the premiere of the film, "The Remedy Men," based on the novel by the late Eudora Welty. The celebration included high-quality lectures, presentations, tours, workshops and other events.

The Coliseum
Press is still the One.



The 13th annual celebration will be Feb. 27 through March 3, 2002, with the theme, "Creativity in the South: A Living Legacy."

Also in February, Co-Lin hosted nine students from Natchez High School's ninth grade for the annual Ground Hog Shadow Day. The students visited the work sites of staff members, including Dean Neffles.

On Feb. 28, the Student Support Services Department hosted its annual Black History Program in front of its full house in the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Room at the Redd/Watkins Vocational Technical Center.

A unique format was used to explore the achievements of famous individuals who contributed to the national awareness of blacks.

Musical highlights included "The Black National Anthem" and an engaging rendition of "This Little Light of Mine" by three local children.

Co-Lin Natchez, in conjunction with the Co-Lin Foundation, hosted its first fund-raising golf tournament May 1. The event attracted nearly 90 golfers to Bear-Paw Country Club, including many Co-Lin golfers and local business and civic leaders.

The event raised approximately \$8,000, which will benefit faculty development and Natchez campus scholarships.

In March, the Student Government Association in conjunction with Student Support Services sponsored a Women in History Program, which featured a panel of distinguished local female leaders.

Also that month, the first group of students was inducted into the Natchez chapter of the National National

Technical Honor Society, which signifies academic achievement and leadership.

In the Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest in March, N-Sight and its staff received 15 awards for writing, photography and design, including three first place honors, and a \$250 award for best editorial writing.

In April, the campus hosted the fourth annual Copeland-Lincoln Community College Media/Journalism Symposium for High School Students. About 175 students and their advisors attended from nine area schools.

Speakers included Ted Jackson, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer; Stacy Croning, of the Natchez Democrat; and Rafe Spanght, editor of The Pontiac Headlight.

Approximately two dozen awards were given to high schools and their student journalists.

On April 26, the campus hosted its annual Industry Appreciation Day, with nearly 200 civic and business leaders added for their support of Co-Lin Natchez. Also, businesses and students who participated in the Work-Based Learning Program were given certificates.



codes of appreciation.

Several clubs performed well at both state and national competition during the spring.

The Beta Kappa Honor Society in February named its David Hallmark, and president Janet Carter earned the Outstanding Leadership Award.

The Scholars Bowl Team won a fifth place tie during the annual statewide competition in February.

Erica Snell made college history in March when she was selected to the All-USA Academic Team Second Team. She also placed on the first team of the All-State team, while Janet Carter was chosen for the second team of the All-State team.

Many of the DEB members also won state honors, which qualified them for the national competition. Jo Hinton, instructor for Marketing Management Technology, was named Mississippi DEB Teacher of the Year for the 2000-2001 school year.

In regional competition, Respiratory Care Practitioner students Korie Smith, Karen O'Guinn, and Erica Davis won the Best Student Team Award in the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care's Nelson Bowl. The student team finished third overall. It was the first time the RCP program entered the competition.

The Beta Lambda students Jesse Singleton and Lori Stewart both won honors at state competition, with Colleen Calmes.

Natchez Mayor P. E. "Honk" Smith signs a proclamation for Industry Appreciation Day. Observing the signing are, from left, Dean Ronald E. Neffles, Assistant Dean for Vocational Technical Instructor Kaye Harris, and Vocational Technical Advisor Mike Nevey (picture bottom left).

President Howell C. Corner with Natchez campus Hall of Famers, from left, Dee Dee Dymore, April Coel and Terry Bullen, who were inducted in April.



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The 12th Annual
Natchez Literary
and Cinema
Celebration
presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South



Feb. 21-25, 2001



Natchez, Miss.



Special Welcome

William Winter Scholars 2001

Several dozen outstanding Humanities Division students, faculty members and professionals have been named William Winter Scholars 2001.

This designation honors former Mississippi Governor William F. Winter, who has served as Director of Proceedings for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration each year since the event began in 1990.

The honorees hail from Mississippi's universities, colleges, community colleges and high schools. They were chosen by their institutions' leaders as their Humanities Divisions' most outstanding representatives.

The honorees include:

- **Alcorn State University, Lorman:**
Constance Bailey, student; Emma Blissett, faculty

- **Bethaven College, Jackson:** Neil Roosma, student; Donald E. Hubele, faculty
- **Brookhaven High School:** Benjamin Ross, student; Dan Peterson, faculty

- **Cathedral High School, Natchez:** Bettye Jane Carby, student; Jean Bigrane, faculty

- **Cosburn Community College:**
LaSondra Cole, student; Roosevelt Wade, faculty

- **Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez:** Catrina Bachmann, student; Bettye Mullen, professional

- **Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson:** Cory Smith, student; Dan Walker, faculty

- **Delta State University, Cleveland:**
Stephanie M. Eddleman, student; Bill Hays, faculty

- **East Central Community College, Decatur:** Megan Morrison, student; Carol Stockfield, faculty

- **Jones County Junior College, Ellisville:**
Christy McLeod, student; Cheryl Windham, faculty

- **Meridian Community College:** Stephen L. Owen, faculty

- **Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead:** Ronald Creswell, student; Marcia Hudson, faculty

- **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jackson County Campus:** Wanda Stewart, faculty

- **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jefferson Davis Campus:** Gaye Winter, faculty

- **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston Campus:** Sandra Acres, faculty

- **Mississippi State University, Starkville:**
Lorie E. Jamison, student; Robert Arnet, faculty

- **Natchez High School, 9th grade:**
Jonathan Knight, student; Shannon Burns, faculty

- **Natchez High School, 10th-12th grades:**
Joseph Smith, student; Joyce Arreaza, faculty

- **Northeast Mississippi Community College, Booneville:** Emory Jones, faculty
- **Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson:** Marshall Brown, student; Michael Payne, faculty

- **Simpson County Academy, Mendenhall:** Kathryn Little, student; Jacque Rogers, faculty

- **Southwest Mississippi Community College, Surratt:** Dawn Branfield, faculty

- **Tougaloo College:** Trymunda Jenkins, student; Kathy Willingham, faculty

- **University of Mississippi, Oxford:**
Jessica L. Mitchell, student; Benjamin F. Fisher, faculty

- **University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg:** Harrison Holmes, student; Philip Gentile, faculty

- **Wesley College, Florence:** Jessica Walters, student; Kim Pusey, faculty

- **Wesson High School:** Jessica Phillips, student; Susan Hackaby, faculty

Other special guests: Student/faculty groups

- **Adams County Christian School,**
Natchez, Miss.

- **Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss.**
- **Cathedral School, Natchez, Miss.**

- **Cosburn Community College,**
Clarksdale, Miss.

- **Copiah-Lincoln Community College,**
Natchez, Miss.

- **Jackson (Miss.) State University**

- **Marksville (La.) School**

- **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community**

- **College, Jackson County Campus**

- **Mississippi School for Mathematics and**
Science, Columbus, Miss.

- **Natchez High School, Natchez, Miss.**

- **Piney Woods (Miss.) School**

- **Trinity Episcopal Day School, Natchez,**
Miss.

- **Wesson Attendance Center, Wesson,**
Miss.

Other special guests:

- **Bookfriends board members, University**
Press of Mississippi

- **The Center for the Study of Southern**
Culture, The University of Mississippi

- **Advisory Board members**

- **Copiah-Lincoln Community College**
Board of Trustees members

- **Elderhostel travel/study participants**
from across the United States

- **Mississippi Center for the Book staff**
members, Jackson

- **Mississippi teachers receiving**
Continuing Education Units

- **Mississippi Humanities Council board**
members and staff

- **Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters**
board members and staff

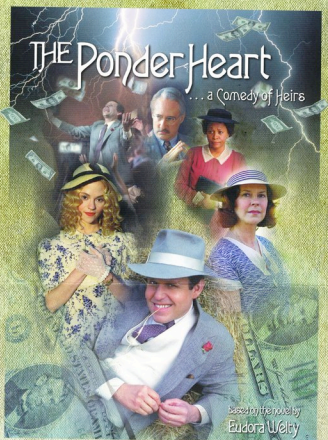
Natchez Community Hospital is a proud sponsor of the 12th Annual Literary and Cinema Celebration



Natchez Community Hospital

*A special Natchez
welcome to all visitors and
program participants!*

Free Film Premiere: 6 p.m., Sat., Feb. 24, 2001



NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM, NATCHEZ, MS

Doors open at 5 p.m.

Film to be introduced by Executive Producer Marian Rees
and Producer Earl Hamner of Hollywood, Calif.

12th annual

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

February 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi
presents

"Fiction, Fact, and Film:
The Genius of the South"



Photo by: Maude Schuyler Clay

Speakers: JOHN GRISHAM (Feb. 22)
plus 24 other well-known writers,
scholars, and film experts

Films: Premiere of EUDORA WELTY's
"The Ponder Heart" plus
"To Kill a Mockingbird" • "Native Son"
"The Reivers" and "My Dog Skip"

For More Information and Tickets call:
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Sponsors: Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park,
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This project is partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism
and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

All free or low cost

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The 12th Annual Natchez
Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film:

*The Genius
of the South*

Feb. 21-25, 2001

Natchez, Mississippi

FREE OR LOW-COST

Lectures - Films - Book Signings

Exhibits - Discussions - Tours - Writing Workshops

Headquarters: Natchez Community Center

Awards ceremony Feb. 22 honoring the writers



John Grisham

and



Bill Minor

Two film premieres:



Margaret Walker Alexander's "For My People"



Eudora Welty's "The Ponder Heart"

For information and tickets
1-601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724
www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Alcorn State University

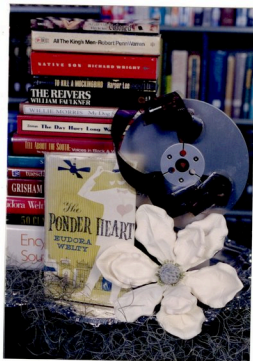
This project is partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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2001



Design by William M. Smith Jr., New Orleans



Phot by Rhett
Powell . scanned
this one is on
CVS computer -

BOOK IT!

NATCHEZ
LITERARY AND CINEMA
CELEBRATION



**FICTION, FACT,
AND FILM:**
*The Genius
of the South*

Feb. 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi

Speakers:
The novelist
John Grisham
and many other well-
known writers, scholars,
and film experts

Films:
Premiere of
"The Ponder Heart"
also

"To Kill a Mockingbird"
"Native Son"
"The Reivers"
"My Dog Skip"

Exhibits	Discussions
Tours	Book Signings
	Writing Workshops
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National Historic Park,
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History, and
Alcorn State University.

This project is partially funded
by the Mississippi Division of
Tourism and the Mississippi
Humanities Council.

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The Natchez Democrat

Thursday, September 21, 2000

www.natchezdemocrat.com

\$9 cents

Grisham among honorees at next year's literary celebration



By APRIL WORTHAM
The Natchez Democrat

Novelist and Mississippi native John Grisham will be honored at next year's Natchez Literary Celebration, which is "shaking gear" with a new name and a new date as the event moves into its 11th year.

Carolyn Vance Smith, the celebration's founder and co-chairperson, told Natchez Rotary Club members Wednesday the 2000 event will take place in February, rather than June, to accommodate school

Changes

groups.

Since teachers and students make up a large part of the celebration's audience, the date is being pushed back to Feb. 21-25, when school will still be in session, Smith said.

"They have begged us to move it back," Smith said. "So we listened and looked at the school calendar to see where we wanted to put it."

Also, the event has been redubbed The

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to include works of film.

As she was growing up, Smith said she would usually read a book, then see the film adaptation if it was available. "Students today are visually-oriented and do the reverse (read the book later), if they do it at all," Smith said.

By including films, both fiction and documentaries, in the celebration, Smith said students will be encouraged to both read and write—the ultimate mission of the annual event.

Mississippians Gerald McRaney, actor and celebration advisor, suggested the new name, Smith said, and will be speaking at the upcoming celebration.

Other prominent names scheduled to attend include "Wing" producer Lowellyn Wells and director Barry Phillips. Phillips is an director for the PBS series "Webb" and creative director of a new series named "Poetry Pub."

Grisham and Miner will be honored at a ceremony as the winners of the 2001 Richard Wright Literary Excellence

Award.

"Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South" is the theme for the 2001 celebration, which will include lectures on Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," Huey Long, Rudora Welly and William Faulkner.

Two films will premiere at the celebration: a documentary on the life and writings of Margaret Walker Alexander, developed by the University of Kansas, and "The Poser Heart," a film version of Welly's novella and play.

Upcoming:

• The celebration will be renamed the Natchez Literary and Film Celebration.

• The date will be moved from June to February (Feb. 21-25, 2001).

• Novelist John Grisham and newspaper columnist Rust Miner will be honored at next year's event.

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12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

February 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi
presents

"Fiction, Fact, and Film:
The Genius of the South"

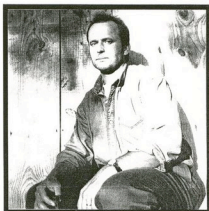


Photo by: Maude Schuyler Clay

Speakers: JOHN GRISHAM (Feb. 22)
plus 24 other well-known writers,
scholars, and film experts

Films: Premiere of EUDORA WELTY's
"The Ponder Heart" plus
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Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Alcorn State University.

This project is partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism
and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

All free or low cost

*see actual poster
at front of ballroom*

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

February 21-25, 2001

Presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South

Headquarters: Natchez Community Center
215 Franklin St.
Natchez, Mississippi



The purpose of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is to bring to Natchez, Mississippi, an annual thematic humanities event that ties together the historical, literary, political, social, artistic, and natural heritage of Mississippi and the South. The event celebrates the region's contributions through lectures, films, documentaries, programs, seminars, workshops, discussions, concerts, dramatic presentations, exhibits, tours, field trips, book signings, and award ceremonies.

This year NLCC presents

Fiction, Fact and Film: the Genius of the South

Co-Chairmen: Carolyn Vance Smith (Co-Lin), Jim Barnett (MDAH), Bob Dodson (NNHP), and Emma Blissett (Alcorn)

**Director of Proceedings: William F. Winter, President, Board of Trustees,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson**

**Sites of the Celebration: Natchez Community Center, Natchez City
Auditorium, and Copiah-Lincoln Community College**

**Tickets and Information: Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, 601-446-
6345 or 1-800-647-6724**

Sponsored by:




Copiah-Lincoln Community College



The National Park Service

Natchez National Historical Park

MISSISSIPPI
Department of ARCHIVES & HISTORY 



Alcorn State University



file NLCC
publicity

BOOKFRIENDS
Board of Directors' Meeting
September 28, 2000/12:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ward Sumner, President.

Upon motion made and duly seconded the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Members attending were:

Frank Alley
Marion Barnwell
Hunter Cole
Leslie Dixon
Willie Mae Dunn
Pat Grenfell
Harriet Kuykendall

Bill Minor
JoAnne Prichard Morris
Sister Simmons
William C. Smith, Jr.
Seetha Srinivasan
Ward Sumner

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Frank Alley presented the financial report. The balance forward as of September 28, 2000 will be \$7,291.84 after the 40% payment of \$1,320.00 to New Horizons is made (enclosure).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Seetha Srinivasan told the Board that the past fiscal year for the press has been its best ever. Recently, the press has had three books reviewed very favorably in the *New York Times Book Review*. The John N. Palmer Foundation has given the press funding to advertise in the *New York Times*, which gives the press a very strong presence there and is extremely beneficial. Seetha mentioned that *Charles M. Schulz: Conversations* and *German Boy: A Refugee's Story* are both doing very well. She noted that the fall is a very busy time at the press with many academic and sales/marketing meetings scheduled.

NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION

The Board was given an e-mail from Carolyn Vance Smith advising of changes to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (enclosure). The dates have been changed to February 21-25, 2001 to accommodate college students and faculty members who wish to attend as groups. The conference will include more films and documentaries than before, and the name has been changed slightly to include "Cinema."

Two current board members will be involved at the NLCC this year: Bill Minor will receive an award and JoAnne will be a featured speaker.

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News from Natchez

The Natchez Campus was busy in early June with staff and students participating in the 11th annual Natchez Literary Celebration, whose theme was: "The Sacred South: Writings from the Bible Belt."

Carolyn Vance Smith, retired Co-Lin Natchez English instructor and director of public information, coordinated the program, held June 1 through 3 at the newly opened Natchez Community Center.

A highlight of the NLC was its renaming to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Plans for the 12th annual celebration to be held in February 2001 involve representatives from the film and cinema industry - particularly screenwriters. On hand for the June event was actor Gerald McRaney, who has taken both a personal and professional interest in the success of the NLCC.

Also in June, the staff of N-Sights, the campus newspaper won more than a dozen awards, including four first-place honors at the annual Mississippi Press

Association's College Better Newspaper Contest.

Danielle Saxon, of Natchez, won two first place honors, one for general news story and the other for sports feature. Although the Natchez Campus does not have a sports program, students write stories about individuals on campus involved in sports or recreation activities.

Angelia McKey, of Natchez, won first and second place for feature story. She also won second place for feature photo. Amber Collins, of Natchez, won first place for feature photo.

Other prizes won were Mac Mardis, of Natchez, second place, general news story; Patrice Washington, third place, feature story, and Kim Brantley, of Natchez, second and third place, sports feature.

In the Mississippi Community/Junior College Press Association annual contest, the campus paper, N-Sights, won four honors. McKey won first place for feature story. The staff won honorable mention awards for layout/design and general excellence.

"I am really proud of the newspaper staff," said Mark LaFrancis, advisor. "They work hard at producing a top-notch campus newspaper, and their effort is reflected in the awards they have received."

During June, the campus began a major computer upgrade project. Also that month, the campus

chapter of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) attended and competed at the national convention.

Also, two new staff members were hired, with their term of service scheduled to begin July 1. They are Bobby Kerrigan, technology specialist, and Nancy McFarland.

Kerrigan replaces Dwayne Dunn, who transferred to Wesson, and McFarland replaces Gwen McCalip, who was promoted to director of admissions and records.

In July, other staff changes occurred. Pat Cater resigned as the Elderhostel site coordinator after four years. Linda Walker Green was moved from part-time to full-time (with the merging of two part-time jobs). Sue Savino became a full-time instructor in Business Office Technology. Kelly Corban transferred to the Vo-Tech office as a secretary, and Dee Ray transferred to the Dean's office as Institute for Learning in Retirement coordinator and Elderhostel site coordinator.



Mrs. Sandra Gibson, retiring director of admissions and records, receiving her final paycheck from Marguerite Wright, accounts payable manager.

A new Office Systems Technology instructor, Anne Middleton, was hired to replace Mariae Torrey, who relocated to Vicksburg.

The campus received good word in July that the Welding program was approved as a full-time vocational program. Previously, Welding was offered only through the federal Job Training Partnership



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N-Sights

The campus newspaper of

September 2000

Vol. 28, No. 1

Copiah-Lincoln Community College Natchez

News and notes

Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chair of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, has been named one of the top 50 business-



Smith

women in Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal.

In
Co-LiN *The Place to Be*
NATCHEZ



November 2000

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News and notes

Congratulations to Henry Whitehead, maintenance department, on the birth of his grandson, William Joseph Whitehead. ... The Mississippi Humanities Council has given a \$3,000 grant to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration for its 2001 event. ... Student evaluations of instructors are being given this week. ... Gene Littig, security guard, has left Co-Lin for another position. ... The campus has purchased a new van. More roofing repairs have been made in an attempt to control leaks. ... Thank you to all those who contributed to the United Way campaign; more than \$1,500 was raised on the Natchez Campus.

Opinion

The Democrat

N-Sights - October 2000

NLCC to honor Grisham, Minor

Two celebrated Mississippi writers will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards at the upcoming 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 21-25, 2001.

Noted novelist John Grisham of Oxford, and North Garden, Va., and longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Minor of Jackson will win the prestigious awards, announced David G. Sansing, awards committee chairman.

"We are delighted that both winners will be present at the Celebration to win the awards and to make remarks," Sansing said.

Grisham and Minor join previous Richard Wright award winners, who are Mississippi-related, authors

Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Shelby Foote, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Sterling Plumm, Richard Ford, Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Beth Henley and David Sansing.

Grisham, author of such block busters as "The Client," "The Firm," "A Time to Kill," and "The Chamber," is a graduate of Mississippi State University, holds a law degree from The University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator.

Minor, considered by many the "dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades.

Our Opinion

Start off your week with some good news

Good morning and good Monday. As we prepare for another week of school and work, we look back at the good news from last week.

► United Way of the Greater Miss-Lou is off to a running start with its annual fund-raising campaign. Five area pacesetter companies have raised 20 percent of the organization's \$320,000 goal for the year. That money, combined with other individual and corporate donations from at least 25 other companies, will help fund 25 area organizations that fall under the umbrella of United Way. From the youth who play baseball with the Dixie Youth

and T.M. Jennings leagues to the seniors at the Concordia Council on Aging, United Way benefits everyone in the community.

► Natchez Literary Celebration founder Carolyn Vance Smith announced this week that the annual event, which will undergo some

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on this or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor to The Democrat by:

- E-mail: stacy.grining@natchezdemocrat.com
- Fax: (801) 442-7315
- Mail: P.O. Box 1447, Natchez, Miss., 39121
- Or in person: 503 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 445-3539.

changes this year, will honor one of Mississippi's favorite sons, popular novelist John Grisham. Grisham, who has seen several of his novels turned into movies, will also attend the first Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. The event is moving from June to February next year to allow more people to attend and will add a new component: the celebration of the South in film.

► Thanks to Steven Sumpter, the Natchez-Adams School District athletic teams and coaches have a helping hand with everything from laundry to keeping scores. And Sumpter, who volunteers his time to help the softball and football teams, also provides some much-needed cheerleading when he's not working hard.

Here's hoping you and your family have a week filled with good news.

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The
University of Mississippi

Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Post Office Box 1848

University, MS 38677-1848

Phone: (662) 915-5993

Fax: (662) 915-5814

E-mail: cssc@olemiss.edu

URL: <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/south>

October 24, 2000

TO: Center Advisory Committee and Executive Council

FROM: Charles Reagan Wilson

SUBJECT: Minutes from September 2000 Meeting in New Orleans and Plans for
February 2001 Meeting in Natchez

Enclosed are minutes from our meeting in New Orleans. We were pleased to share news on our new grant from the Hardin Foundation, planning for the proposed Deep South Humanities Center, and other activities.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 24, 2001, in Natchez. We are meeting there in conjunction with the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which will take place February 21-25. Please mark your calendars now. In the coming weeks you will receive a preliminary program for the Literary and Cinema Celebration, and early in the new year you will receive details about our meeting.

Again, many thanks for your interest in the Center and for your support of our work.

/sdp

Enclosure

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December 12, 2000

Dear Center Executive Council and Advisory Committee Members:

As the holidays approach, all of us here at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture pause to wish you and your families well and send also our best wishes for the approaching new year. We are eagerly anticipating a full schedule of activities and developments in upcoming months. We hope, as always, to see many of you as we gather for Center planning meetings and initiatives in 2001. We look forward to keeping you informed, and we hope to benefit as well from the wisdom of your guidance as we push on in our work to strengthen Center goals.

There are several items of note that you should put on your 2001 calendars. First, the next meeting of our Executive Council and Advisory Committee will be held in Natchez on February 24. You'll be receiving more information about time and place, but put the date on your calendars now and make plans to join us that Saturday for Center business and camaraderie. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. This year's topic "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South," will take place February 21-25. Call (601-446-1208) or e-mail Carolyn Smith for more information at: carolyn.smith@colin.cc.ms.us.

a one-time gift. I enclose for your convenience a University Foundation return envelope. Please make checks out to: The University of Mississippi Foundation/Gammill Gallery.

Happy holidays, and our very best wishes to you all in 2001.

Sincerely,

Charles Reagan Wilson
Director and Professor of History

Minutes of the Board of Directors
Friends of ETV and PRM
Thursday, November 16, 2000
Room 4-1, Universities Center
12 Noon

Present: Campbell, England, Fugate, Henderson, Hiatt, Howell, Johnson, Jones, Phillips, Presley, Reich, Roberts, Sallis, Stanford, Sisk, Teller, Thornton, Welker, Welsch.

Excused: Caradine, Clark, Davis, Dawkins, Hubbard, Kennedy, Lee, Love, Miller, McNeely, Moore, Nye, Price, Rausa, Smith.

Also present: Representative Cecil Brown; Foundation president John Maxey; MAET executive director Larry Miller; development director Thorne Butler; Friends executive secretary Zo Brown.

Friends of ETV and PRM Board Meeting, November 16, 2000, page 2

* **RIGHT FROM BIRTH** will have its premiere in early December. The Department of Human Services has given ETV a generous grant to pay for outreach for the series.

* **Welty's PONDER HEART** will be shown on **AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE** sometime next year.

In mid January the Welty Foundation will have a premiere at Central High School, and in

February the program will air at the Natchez Literary Festival.

* ETV has been making projections about where it would make a 5% budget cut.

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-Sights

December 2000

Vol. 28, No. 3

The campus newspaper of Copiah-Lincoln Community College Natchez

Grisham, Minor honored to be chosen for award

N-Sights staff

Two noted Mississippi writers said they were honored to be chosen to receive the top literary prizes awarded by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

"I'm not sure I am in the same orbit with the past recipients," said John Grisham, of Oxford. "But I am humbled and flattered to be selected nonetheless."

Newspaper columnist Bill

Minor said, "I am very flattered to be selected for this outstanding honor."

Minor added, "I have always been an admirer of Richard Wright's work, and to link my name to his is truly exciting."

Both are scheduled to receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award during the annual celebration Feb. 21-23.

Co-Lin is a co-sponsor of the

award-winning celebration.

Other sponsors are the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park and Alcorn State University.

Students and staff are invited to help with the program by joining Friends of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Students interested in helping should contact Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman, in

her office near the bookstore.

Grisham, author of such best-selling books as *The Client*, *The Firm*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Chamber*, *Pelican Brief*, and *The Street Lawyer*, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, holds a law degree from The University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator. Many of his novels have been made into extremely popular movies.

Minor, considered by many the

"dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His columns have appeared in numerous newspapers across the South.

Most of the conference is free, with related activities low-cost.

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From the page to the stage

Literary and Film Celebration announces changes, agenda

Special to The Democrat

Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, 2001, with the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genesis of the South."

The Celebration has a slightly different name, it's moving to a new time of year, and three speakers will preface two programs, one at the conference and the other at Natchez High School, where students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather, said Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater," he said.

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the Olympic Award-winning cultural event. He represents the national park, which has been a co-sponsor since 1991. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are Emma Blissett, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the event in 1989.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic film. Dodson said, "We'll continue to celebrate great literature, but we're adding more films and documentaries," he said.

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students. Dodson said, "They wanted the conference during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, from Alcorn State University and from public, parochial and private schools in Adams County, Barnes said.

He also expects students and faculty from Mississippi schools for Mathematics and Science and from most universities, colleges and community colleges in Mississippi," he said.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year. The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

"Another aspect of the conference which appeals to teachers is the fact that they can earn Continuing Education Units while attending the conference," Blissett said.

Still another change is, taking one program of the conference into the schools, Blissett said. Three speakers will present a free program about their careers Feb. 22, 2001, at Natchez High School. Students and faculty from other area high schools are invited to attend. Presenting this program are the author Clifton Taulbert of Tulsa ("Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored"), the Emmy Award-winning film producer Jennifer Ogden of Natchez (Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie") and the Emmy-Award-winning art director Barry Phillips of Fort Worth ("Wildbone" and "Poetry Pals").

where most lectures will take place. Other sites to be used are noted in the following agenda. Information and tickets are available by calling 601-446-6545 or 1-800-647-6724, or by visiting the conference Web site at www.colin.edu.ms.us/ncle.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2001

1 p.m. Welcome and introductions by Howell Garner, president, Copiah-Lincoln Community College; Clinton Briskow, president, Alcorn State University; Natchez Mayor P.L. "Hank" Smith III, NLCC Co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln; Bob Dodson, NMHA; Jim Barnett, MDAH; and Emma Blissett, Alcorn; and Director of Proceedings William F. Winter, President, MDAH Board of Trustees

1:15 p.m. A film, "Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White, the History of Modern Southern Literature," produced by Age Films, Charlottesville, Va., and narrated by former Poet Laureate Rita Dove

2:45 p.m. "20th Century Films: Their Beginnings, Sources, and Genus," Charles G. Vahlskurtz, Haezlering Professor of Humanities, Gaines College, Danville, Va.

3:30 p.m. "Representing, Standing, and Standing Up: Notions Literary and Legal in To Kill a Mockingbird," Cleopatra Thomas Jr., Harper Lee enthusiast and attorney-at-law, Annapolis, Md.

7 p.m. A film, "To Kill a Mockingbird," with coffee hour. Introduction to follow, led by Cleopatra Thomas Jr. and Charles G. Vahlskurtz

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2001

9 a.m. "Huey Long: Fact, Fiction, and Film," a discussion by David Zeman, Ph.D., Lookout, N.Y., author of The Day Huey Long Was Shot; William Belford Clark, Texas A&M University, author of American Vision of Robert Penn Warren; and Noel Polk, University of Southern Mississippi, editor of Warren's All the King's Men, with film clips; chaired by Charles Reagan Wilson, the University of Mississippi

10:45 a.m. Presentation by Maryemma G. Graham, University of Kansas and Senior Academic Advisor of a film project about the life and writings of Mississippi

author Margaret Walker Alexander

11:15 a.m. A premiere of the film, "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander"

1:145 a.m. Book signing honoring the morning's lecturers

1:30 p.m. "Facts and Fiction: A Veteran Broadcaster Offers a Fictional Look at Natchez and New Orleans," Ciji Ware, San Francisco, reporter/author of Midnight on Julia Street (set in New Orleans), and A Light on the Veranda (set in Natchez, for release 2001)

3 p.m. "Richard Wright and Creative Interpretation," Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo College, co-editor of Black Southern Voices

4 p.m. Book signing honoring the afternoon's lecturers

4:45 p.m. Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture Reception, honoring speakers (5:01)

6:30 p.m. Natchez City Auditorium, The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, honoring two Mississippi writers, the novelist John Grisham of Oxford and North



This year, the Natchez Literary Celebration adds another component — film — and will be held in February rather than June.

discussion led by Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas; Noel Polk, University of Southern Mississippi; and Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo College

Friday, Feb. 23, 2001

9 a.m. "Responding to the Needs of Society: Bringing the Human Touch to the 21st Century," a discussion by Barry Phillips, Fort Worth, PBS TV Series, "Wildbone," and Creative Director, "Poetry Pals," and Jennifer Ogden, Natchez and Hollywood, producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie" and other films

10:30 a.m. "From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film," a discussion by Jane Chase Wells, NBC-TV New York; Llewellyn Wells, producer "Bluesian Blues," "The Worst Week," and David Armstrong, novelist/script writer, Southaven; chaired by Jean Bollinger, Slemmon Oaks, Calif.

noon, Carriage House at a luncheon (\$25) followed by "Books and Films: Defining Our Sense of Place," Clifton Taulbert, Tulsa, author of Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored and other books; book sale and book signing to follow

1:30 p.m. "Willie Morris, My Dog Skip, and Me," JoAnne Pritchard Morris, senior editor, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

2:45 p.m. The film version of "Willie Morris: My Dog Skip"

5 p.m. Downtown Natchez, "The Wonderful World of Disney," a parade presented by the Natchez Mardi Gras Krewe of Phoenix

8 p.m. "Accolades for William Faulkner" Readings from Faulkner's work by Gerald McRaney, senior of California and Mississippi, and remarks about Faulkner's career, with emphasis on The Reversers, by D o n a l d Kartiganer, The University of Mississippi

author of The Fringe Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels, with film clips

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2001

Natchez City Auditorium

9 a.m. "Blues for Scarlett: Music in Film from Southern Literature," Gerald Smith, Professor of Music

Action: Favorite Film Sites in Southeast Mississippi," Llewellyn Wells, producer of "Black Finn," a film shot partially in Natchez

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Historic Jefferson College and the museum films Court Views on your-own to two of Natchez's favorite film sites (\$20): The 1835 mansion Elms Court ("Huckleberry Finn," "Robbers and Rascals," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Brash Land," and "Raintree County"); Historic Jefferson College ("Horse Soldiers," "Black Finn," "Raintree County," "Huckleberry Finn," "Mistress of Paradise," "The Mississippi," and "North and South"); the scenic lurch and re-enactment of a scene from "Horse Soldiers" at Jefferson College

1:35 p.m. "The Heart of Eudora Welles's Family Comedies," Peggy Whitman Pleasance, Fred C. Frey Professor of English, Louisiana State University; other conversations with Eudora Welles, Eudora Welles: Critical Essays, and Eudora Welles: 13 Essays

2 p.m. A film, "New Winter's Beginnings," a BBC documentary featuring Eudora Welles and her novels, "The Ponder Heart"

6 p.m. Premiere of the film version of Eudora Welles's novels, The Ponder Heart, introduced by Marian Ross, CEO and Executive Producer, A.L.T. Films Inc., Studio City, Calif., with special guest Earl Hamner, Co-Producer of the film, Studio City

8:45 p.m.-1 a.m. Ramada Inn Hillsop, "The Wonderful World of Disney," a formal grand ball presented by the Natchez Mardi Gras Krewe of Phoenix (Tickets for sale at the door)

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

10 a.m.-noon Workshops for Writers (\$20, with coffee, juice, and snacks) Limited enrollment. Choose one. Participants are invited to bring original manuscripts.

"Straight News, Columns, and Editorials: Tips on Writing for Newspapers," Bill Morris, journalist

"The Nuts and Bolts of Poetry Writing," Jerry Ward, published poet, Tougaloo (Miss.) College

"Playing Writing Made Easy," David Zeman, playwright, Ph. Lookout, N.Y.

"Structure and Form: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," S. Dixon McDougal, Chair, Department of Radio

Grisham, Minor Richard Wright

Special to The Democrat

Two celebrated Mississippi writers will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards at the upcoming 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 21-25, 2001.

Noted novelist John Grisham of Oxford and North Garden, Va., and a long-time Mississippi journalist Bill Minor of Jackson will win the prestigious awards, announced David G. Sansing, awards committee chair and professor of history emeritus at The University of Mississippi.

"We are delighted that both winners will be present at the Celebration to win the awards and to make remarks," Sansing said. "The awards ceremony is bound to attract a large crowd."

Grisham and Minor join previous Richard Wright award winners, who are Eudora Welles, Margaret Walker Alexander, Shelby Foote, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Sterling Pharr, Richard Wright, Will Campbell, Elizabeth Spencer, Bob Hinesley and David Sansing.

Grisham, author of such block busters as The Client, The Firm, A Time to Kill, The Chamber, Pelican Brief, and The Street Lawyer, is a graduate of Mississippi State University, holds a law degree from The University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator. Many of his novels have been made into extremely popular movies.

"I'm not sure I am in the same orbit with the past recipients," Grisham said, "but I am humbled and flattered to be selected for the award."

Minor, considered by many the "dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for The Times Picayune of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His columns regularly appear in numerous newspapers across the South.

From offices in Jackson, Miss., Minor published his own newspaper for years and now continues to write researched columns. His work appears weekly in The Natchez Democrat, the Jackson Clarion-Ledger and other newspapers.

"I am very flattered to be selected



Grisham



Minor

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January 2001

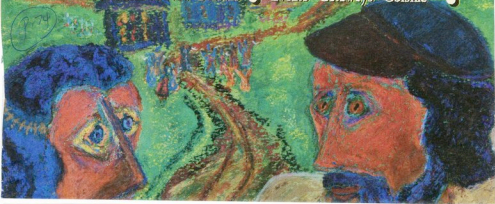
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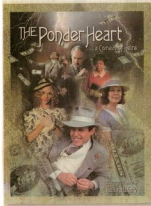
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This project partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism.

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Mississippi Department of Archives & History, and Alcorn State University*

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Welty film to premiere in Natchez during annual Literary and Film Celebration

Special to The Democrat

The film version of Eudora Welty's beloved yet heart-warming novella, "The Ponder Heart," will premiere in Natchez Saturday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. at the City Auditorium.

"This fine program is the highlight of the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Co-Lin is founder and co-sponsor of the Celebration. Other co-sponsors are the Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Alcorn State University. Assisting with the Natchez premiere of "The Ponder Heart" is Mississippi Educational Broadcasting.

"All the best talents in Hollywood collaborated on this exceptional film," Smith said.

On hand to introduce the 94-minute film will be its executive producer, Martin Roos of ALT Films, Studio City, Calif. One of television's most honored producers, she has produced 26 films for network and-cable televi-



sion, including many for the prestigious Hallmark Hall of Fame. Also present will be the Welty film's producer, Earl Hammer, also of Studio City. Hammer is creator, producer and narrator of the long-running television series, "The Waltons," and is creator of the television drama, "Falcon Crest."

Gail Cichrest, screenwriter of "My Dog Skip," a film based on a book by the same name by Willie Morris, wrote the television script for Welty's sunny novella.

Stars include Peter MacNeill ("Sophie's Choice") and "Ally McBeal") as Uncle Daniel Ponder; Jolene Williams ("The Big Chill"), as Edna Earle Ponder; Angela Boreis ("Gail, Interrupted"), as Uncle Daniel's wife, Bonnie; Don Peacock; Lenny Von Dohlen ("Frasier"); as the lawyer Dr. Yancey Claborn; Jennifer Lewis ("Catsway") as Uncle Daniel's housekeeper, Narcissa Wingfield; and Brent Spiner ("Star Trek") as prosecuting attorney Dorris Gumbrey.

"Mississippi is especially rich in writers, but few writers have captured the sense of any region as perfectly as Miss Welty has captured Mississippi," Roos said. "The Ponder Heart"

was filmed in Mississippi in March 2000 in Canton, Edwards and Raymond. "We were delighted to film this wonderful book here,"

The opportunity for people attending the Celebration "to see a sneak preview of this comic masterpiece is exceptional," Smith said. The film will air on Public Broadcasting System in the fall as part of ExxonMobil Masterpiece Theatre's American Collection, she said.

"Professors and teachers might be interested in knowing there is an educational component of the PBS series on the Web at www.exxonmobil.com/americancollection.org," Smith said.

"The Ponder Heart" has been the basis for many versions since it first was published in 1953 in New Yorker magazine.

It appeared in book form in 1954, and in 1956 a dramatic adaptation appeared on Broadway. The current film version is the first of its kind.

Seating at the Natchez premiere is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Information about the event is available by calling Natchez Ticket Office, (601) 446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724.



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

January 2001

To: Faculty and Staff at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus

From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Co-chairman, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Re: You're invited!

The annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, founded by Copiah-Lincoln in 1990 and co-sponsored this year by Co-Lin, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Alcorn State University, will take place Feb. 21-25, 2001.

The theme will be "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South." About two dozen scholars, writers, and film experts will be on hand at the Natchez Community Center and the Natchez City Auditorium for lectures and discussions. In addition, there will be special exhibits, writing workshops, exhibits, meals, receptions, book signings, tours, and more.

One special event will feature the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor. They will win the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards in ceremonies at the City Auditorium at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, 2001. Though this event is free, it is ticketed. You must have a ticket to enter since space is limited and we expect a big crowd.

Co-Lin faculty, staff, students, and friends are eligible to obtain up to FOUR FREE TICKETS for the awards ceremony. All you have to do is sign a list with one of the English instructors at Co-Lin Natchez BEFORE Thursday, Jan. 18. Your tickets may be picked up beginning Monday, Jan. 22, from the English instructor with whom you signed up.

FACULTY: Please announce this procedure to all your classes. We want everyone connected to Co-Lin who wants to attend to be able to get a ticket. After Jan. 18, tickets will be first-come, first-served at the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Convention and Visitor Center. We expect they will go fast.

ALSO! Please announce that if someone obtains tickets and finds later they cannot use them, they should turn the tickets in promptly to the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau. These tickets can then distributed to people who are able to attend.

On a related note, if you would like to assist with the Celebration, we need you! Just let members of Friends of the NLCC at Co-Lin Natchez know. Sponsors of this group are Monica Cross, Jan Pickle, and myself. A preferential sheet will be available for you to sign and return.

Thank you!

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

file

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
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January 2001

To: Co-Lin Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman

Want to assist at the award-winning, prestigious NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION? You are needed in a variety of ways. Please look below, choose what appeals to you, and complete this form. Then return it to me via inter-school mail or U.S. mail BY FRIDAY, JAN. 26. We'll be in touch with you.

The theme of this year's conference is "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South." Lecturers are well-known writers and scholars from all across America. The conference, celebrating its 12th year, will take place Wednesday-Sunday, Feb. 21-25, 2001, at the Natchez Community Center, corner of Wall and Franklin, as well as at the Natchez City Auditorium and other sites in and around Natchez.

Your name (Please print.)

Phone

Checked below are areas in which I can assist at the Celebration, Wednesday-Sunday, Feb. 21-25, 2001.

- ☐ Working as usher/host/hostess at the Community Center or City Auditorium, Feb. 21-24. Numerous ushers are needed at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, at the City Auditorium for the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony, which honors the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor.
- ☐ Serving as a personal liaison with a lecturer (meeting a person at an airport, transporting person around Natchez, etc. -- a good way to get to know a celebrity!), Feb. 21-25
- ☐ Working in the Celebration office as an assistant (doing computer work, making signs, delivering posters, etc.), now through Feb. 21
- ☐ Working with daily autograph parties, Feb. 21-24, at the Community Center or elsewhere
- ☐ Assisting with decorations and set-up at the Community Center Feb. 20 and the morning of Feb. 21
- ☐ Assisting with social events, Feb. 21-25
- ☐ Making phone calls to line up details, now through Feb. 20
- ☐ Assisting with last-minute packet-stuffing, errand-running, etc., Feb. 21-21
- ☐ Other jobs (Please note what you'd like to do.)

Please note on back any time constraints under which you are volunteering. Thank you!

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FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

<i>New Members Join the Mississippi Humanities Council</i>	Page 2-3.
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<i>Humanities Teacher Awards</i>	Page 6.
<i>NEH Intern Speaks of Opportunities</i>	Page 7.

cil, invites all supporters of MHC to attend the Council's annual awards dinner February 16, 2001, in Jack-

CAROLYN VANCE SMITH

Carolyn Vance Smith of Natchez is an award-winning educator and also a writer who is also a state leader in church and civic activities. She holds a B.A. in English and history from Mississippi University for Women and an M.A. in English from Vanderbilt University, with further graduate work at the University of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Oregon, Mississippi College, and Northeastern University.



Award, and Mrs. Libby Aydelott of Clinton will be honored with the Pu. She has served as a National Consultant for Special Elderhostel Programs, after having served as Regional Director of Mississippi/Arkansas Elderhostel, Director of Mississippi Elderhostel, and Coordinator of the Natchez Elderhostel program. A former instructor in the Natchez Public Schools, at Louisiana State University, and at the University for Southern Mississippi, for 25 years she was coordinator of the English Department and public relations director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez. At Co-Lin she founded two award-winning projects: the annual international Natchez Literary and Film Celebration and the international Natchez Elderhostel program.

Mississippi Humanities Council

Winter 2001 Number 1

HUMANITIES RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

For these projects, her teaching, and other activities, Smith has received the International Master Teacher Award, the Mississippi Legislature's award for Outstanding Educator in the Co-Lin District, the Mississippi Community Colleges' Lamplighter award for outstanding

these awards. Nominations are eyed by a panel, which selects year's awardees.

Awards last year went to Dr. rles Bolton of the University of hem Mississippi, Milburn ve of Mound Bayou, Dr. Randall rson of St. Andrew's Episcopal

educators, the Governor's Award for Tourism Development, the Athena Award for outstanding leadership by the Natchez Chamber of Commerce, *The Natchez Democrat's* Citizen of the Year Award, and the Natchez Historical Society's Historic Preservation Award. For the Natchez Literary Celebration, she also received an award from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic games for outstanding humanities programming and in 1997 received the statewide Public Humanities Achievement Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

3. United States Senator Thad ian, Commissioner Dick Hall, The Phil Hardin Foundation, and University Press of Mississippi.

Those honored in the past include Dr. Ben Bailey, Mayor Edward Bishop of Corinth, Dr. Larry Chap-



Elizabeth Sarcose

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*** AMERICAN ***

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12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

February 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi
presents

"Fiction, Fact, and Film:
The Genius of the South"

Speakers : JOHN GRISHAM (Feb. 22)
plus 24 other well-known writers,
scholars, and film experts

Films: Premiere of EUDORA WELTY's
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Copiah-Lincoln Community College

2001 Spring Schedule



NATCHEZ CAMPUS INFORMATION

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ELDERHOSTEL

Elderhostel, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization with 25 years of experience providing high-quality, affordable, educational adventures for adults who are 55 and older. These short-term educational programs are a fun and exciting way for participants to share new ideas, explore new places and make new friends. Each program consists of learning adventures, including lectures, discussions, field trips, and activities. There are no tests or assignments.

Elderhostel programs offered by Co-Lin Natchez that are scheduled for the Spring of 2001 include:

February 4-9, 2001	Historic Natchez: Magic on the Jamestown of the Mississippi
February 11-16, 2001	Searching the Old Natchez District: Its Footpaths, Flatboats and Flavors
February 20-25, 2001	Historic Natchez with Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

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BOOK IT!

The 12th annual
NATCHEZ LITERARY AND
CINEMA CELEBRATION

*FICTION, FACT,
AND FILM:
THE GENUS
OF THE SOUTH*

FEB. 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi

Lectures and Film Reviews by
Nationally Known Scholars and
Writers plus
Screenings, Tours, Awards, Book
Signings, and More!

For statewide travel information
Call 1-800-WARMEST



This event is partially funded by
the Mississippi Department of
Economic and Community
Development and the Mississippi
Humanities Council.

Sponsors are Copiah/Lincoln
Community College, Natchez
National Historical Park,
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History, and Alcorn
State University.

INFORMATION & TICKETS
1-601-446-6345
1-800-647-6724
www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlc



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

January 10, 2001

To: New Orleans Public Library

From: Marsha Colson *mc*
Office Manager

Please help us to publicize the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration by
distributing the enclosed rack cards. We appreciate your assistance and hope that you
will join us for part or all of this year's exciting events. If you need further information,
you may reach me at 601-446-1213 or Marsha.Colson@colin.cc.ms.us.

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On the Natchez Campus calendar



Friday, Jan. 12: Wellness Committee meeting, 11 a.m., Room 120 (library conference room).

Friday, Jan. 12: COM 1511 AND COM 1521 students meet, 11 a.m., Room 305

Monday, Jan. 15: National, state holiday. No school.

Wednesday, Jan. 17: COM 1511 AND COM 1521 students meet, 11 a.m., Room 305

Wednesday, Jan. 17: Last day to register or make schedule changes.

Friday, Jan. 19: Film Club meets, 11 a.m., Room 305 - ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BECOME A MEMBER. Dues: \$5/school year. The club shows films and sponsors other activities.

Monday, Jan. 22: COM 1511 AND COM 1521 students meet, 11 a.m., Room 305.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: N-Sights (JOU students) meeting, 11 a.m., Room 305.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Wellness Committee luncheon, 11 a.m., academic activity room, \$5 (includes lunch and speaker). Employees and students may attend. Teriyaki chicken, baked potato, green salad.

Thursday, Feb. 1: Circle K blood drive, academic activity room (watch for the fliers).

Friday, Feb. 2: Ground Hog Shadow Day. Ninth grade students accompany staff members on their jobs that morning and have lunch.

Tuesday, Feb. 13: N-Sights publishes.

Wednesday, Feb. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 25: Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Headquarters is the Natchez Community Center. See information brochures around campus or contact the NLCC office near the bookstore.

News and notes

Need a Student Handbook? Copies are available in admissions or the bookstore. ... Congratulations to **Theresa Thornton**, sophomore and education major, for being selected Student of the Month for December 2000.

Keep in your prayers

Please keep in your prayers **Carolyn Vance Smith**, co-chairman of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, whose father, **William Jackson Vance**, died Jan. 5, 2001.

Office of Public Information
Copolah-Lincoln Community College
11 Co-Lin Circle
Natchez, MS 39120

NLCC set for February

Conference has something for everyone

The historic Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will take place Feb. 21 through 25. For the first time, the programs will feature a wide variety of presentations and activities centering on movies, screen writers, screen plays and other film-related topics. Many are free or low cost. And, the celebration will occur during the school session, allowing students ample opportunity to attend.

Co-Lin is a major co-sponsor of the celebration.

Speakers include novelist John Grisham, and well-known newspaper political columnist Bill Minor, both of whom will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award. The award presentation will be Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Natchez City Auditorium. Up to four tickets for the event will be available free to each Co-Lin employee and student. Tickets must be reserved by Jan. 18. All interested individuals should see one of the three English instructors, Judy Wiggins, Barbara Haigh or Jan Pickle. The tickets will not be available until the week of the celebration.

The celebration is titled, "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South," and features exhibits, discussions, tours, book signings, writing workshops, receptions and meals. Film showings include the premiere of the movie, "The Ponder Heart," based on the novel by Eudora Welty.

Relay team to sponsor 'Millionaire II'

Co-Lin's Relay for Life Team will sponsor the second Co-Lin Millionaire Bowl, based on the television game show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

The show is set for April 19 at 7 p.m. in the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Room. The show will be similar to the first contest held last November to raise money for campus clubs and food for local charities. Community Relay for Life team members will be the contestants. The public will be invited. A small admission charge will help raise money to fight cancer.

Refractions seeking writers' works

Refractions, the Co-Lin Natchez literary magazine, is seeking works from campus writers. Deadline for submission is Feb. 15.

The categories are: Poetry, Short Story, Essay, Literary Essay and One-Act Play. All entries need to be typed, double spaced.

Winning entries will be submitted to the state literary writing contest. In the past, the Natchez campus has had several state winners.

Entries should be submitted to any of the English instructors: Irma Caldwell, Barbara Haigh, Mary Gwynne Millione, Jan Pickle or Judy Wiggins.

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page 27

Carolyn Smith - Tickets for awards ceremony with John Grisham and Bill Minor

From: Carolyn Smith
To: NAT Faculty and Staff
Date: 1/16/2001 5:46 PM
Subject: Tickets for awards ceremony with John Grisham and Bill Minor

Sign up today! Don't get left out!

Tickets are available at Co-Lin free of charge for a program honoring the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 22, at the Natchez City Auditorium.

These two writers will receive the 2001 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards, presented annually by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. The men will make remarks about their careers after receiving the awards.

You can sign up for tickets today through Thursday evening, Jan. 18, with one of the full-time instructors of English at Co-Lin. These ladies are Barbara Haigh, Jan Pickle, and Judy Wiggins. Co-Lin has "first dubs" on seats through Jan. 18.

After Jan. 18, the tickets will be available only through the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, 640 S. Canal St. They will be available on a first-come, first-served after that point.

We expect a full house (1,125 seats) at the City Auditorium. Hope to see you there!

Carolyn Vance Smith

Carolyn Vance Smith
Elderhostel/Educational Travel Associates, Inc.
Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
11 Co-Lin Circle
Natchez, MS 39120

Phone: 601-446-1208
Fax: 601-446-1214
E-mail: Carolyn.Smith@colin.cc.ms.us



The
University of Mississippi

Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Post Office Box 1848

University, MS 38677-1848

(662) 915-5993

Fax: (662) 915-5814

E-mail: csoc@olemiss.edu

URL: <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/south>

January 22, 2001

TO: Center Advisory Committee and Executive Council

FROM: Charles Reagan Wilson, Director

SUBJECT: Supper and Meeting in Natchez

The Center's State Advisory Committee and its Executive Council will have a joint meeting on Saturday, February 24, during the 2001 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. CAC member Carolyn Vance Smith is cochair of the February 21-25 event, which will explore the theme "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

A flyer with information about the program and registration is enclosed. Most of the lectures are free, and tours and social events are priced individually at low cost. Tickets are available through the Natchez Box Office. For details, see the flyer. For lodging information and reservations, call the Natchez Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-647-6742. Carolyn and I hope you will plan to attend the entire Literary and Cinema Celebration as well as a special supper at Elgin Plantation and the Center lunch and meeting.

Ruth Ellen and Bill Calhoun, Lynn and Stewart Gammill, Sandra Simpson, and Carolyn and Marion Smith are hosting a supper honoring speakers for the Literary and Cinema Celebration and members of the Center's Advisory Committee and Executive Council. Supper at Elgin Plantation, home of the Calhouns, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, February 23, and end in time for everyone to attend the 8:00 p.m. program on William Faulkner. Elgin Plantation is off Highway 61 South, on Elgin Road. Maps will be available at numerous sites in Natchez.

At noon on Saturday, February 24, CAC member John Callon has again invited us to gather for lunch at the conference room of Callon Petroleum Company's headquarters, located on the top floor of a beautifully restored building overlooking the Mississippi River. The address is 200 North Canal Street; telephone 601-442-1601. The cost of the meal, including drinks and wine, is \$18.00 a person. **(Checks should be made payable to the caterer, Sara Blough.)** Our meeting will begin immediately after lunch and will conclude no later than 4:00 p.m.

Please return the enclosed form to reply to the invitation for the Friday evening supper and to make reservations for lunch on Saturday. Or, if you prefer, you may call my assistant, Brandi Dykes at the Center (662-915-5993).

I look forward to seeing you in Natchez in February and in Oxford on April 27 for the dedication of the Lynn and Stewart Gammill Gallery and the rededication of the Lyceum. Details about these events will be forthcoming.

Enclosures

A Great American Public University

www.olemiss.edu

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

January 24, 2001

To: Marion Smith
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman
Re: Special event tickets and receipt

This memo will certify that you paid for two tickets @ \$135 each for a dinner which will benefit the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Of this amount \$100 per ticket is tax-deductible.

The dinner, which is sold out, will take place in Natchez, Miss., at Monmouth Plantation, the home of Ron and Lani Riches. The event is set for Thursday, February 22, 2001, immediately following the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony at the Natchez City Auditorium. The awards ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. and honors the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor. On the program will be the honorees, Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove, former Mississippi Governor William Winter, Awards Committee Chairman David Sansing of The University of Mississippi, and NLCC Co-chairman Emma Blissett of Alcorn State University.

Enclosed are tickets for both the awards ceremony and for the dinner.

Please note:

1. Doors to the awards ceremony will open at 5:30 p.m. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. A full house is expected. You must present a ticket for admission.
2. On the back of the enclosed dinner ticket is your table number. (There will be five tables of 10 people each.) Please present this ticket at the front door of Monmouth upon arrival. Cocktails and wine are included in the ticket price. During the dinner, the two guests of honor will move from table to table between courses so that all present will be able to speak to them.
3. Because of time constraints, Mr. Grisham is sorry but he cannot autograph books.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Please call if you have a question or need assistance.

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'Fiction, Fact and Film'

12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration unveils new name

NATCHEZ, Miss. — Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, with the theme "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South."

The Celebration has a slightly different name, it's moving to a new time of year, two films will make their premieres and three speakers will present two programs, one at the conference and the other at Natchez High School.

"At the school, students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather," said Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historic Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater."

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the Olympic Award-winning cultural event. He represents the national park, which has been a co-sponsor since 1981. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are the Emma Bilseet, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the event in 1989.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films.

"We'll continue celebrate great literature, but we're adding more

films and documentaries," Dodson said.

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students, Dodson said.

"They wanted the conference to during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Alcorn State University and public, parochial and private schools in Adams County.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year. The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

Premiering at the Celebration are films connected to two legendary Mississippi writers, Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker Alexander. The films are "The Ponder Heart," based on a novella by Welty and produced by A.L.T. Films of Hollywood, Calif., and "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documentary produced by the

University of Kansas.

Still another change is taking one program of the conference into the schools. Emma Bilseet said. Three speakers will present free programs about their careers on Feb. 22 at Natchez High School. Presenting this program are Clifton Taulbert, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*; Emmy Award-winning film producer Jennifer Opatz of Natchez, whose work includes Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions presentation of "Tuesdays With Morris"; and Emmy Award-winning art director Barry Phillips of Fort Worth, Texas, who has worked on the productions of "Wishbone" and "Poetry Pals."

There will also be featured appearances by such talents as authors John Grisham, Clifton Taulbert and actor Gerald McRaney.

The upcoming Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration follows the usual pattern of free lecture series with special programs. This year, the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops.

Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., where most lectures will take place. For more information or to order tickets, call (601) 446-6345 or (800) 647-6724 or by visiting the conference Web site at www.colin.edu.ms.us/nlcc.



Gerald McRaney



Clifton Taulbert

Grisham, Bill Minor to receive Richard Wright awards

NATCHEZ, Miss. — Two celebrated Mississippi writers will receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards at the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 21-25.

Best-selling novelist John Grisham of Oxford, Miss., and North Garden, Va., and longtime Mississippi journalist Bill Minor of Jackson will be presented with these awards.

The announcement was made by David G. Sansing, awards committee chair and professor of history emeritus at the University of Mississippi.

The free awards ceremony will be 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Natchez City Auditorium.

"We are delighted that both winners will be present at the Celebration to receive the awards and make remarks," Sansing said. "The awards ceremony is bound to attract a large crowd."

Previous winners of the Richard Wright award are Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker Alexander, Shelby Steele, Ellen Douglas, Willie Morris, Sterling Plumm, Richard Ford, Will Campbell, Barry Hannah, Elizabeth Spencer, Bob Hensley and David

Sansing.

Grisham, author of such blockbusters as *A Time to Kill*, *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber* and *The Street Lawyer*, is a graduate of Mississippi State University and holds a law degree from the University of Mississippi and is a former Mississippi legislator. Many of his novels have been made into films.

"I am not sure I am in the same orbit with the past recipients," Grisham said. "But I am humbled and flattered to be selected nonetheless."

Minor, considered by many the "dean" of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His columns regularly appear in numerous newspapers across the South.

From offices in Jackson, Miss., Minor published his own newspaper for years and now continues to write

researched columns.

"I'm very flattered to be selected for this outstanding honor," Minor said. "I have always been an admirer of Richard Wright's work, and to link my name to his is truly exciting."

Though free, the awards ceremony is ticketed because a large crowd is expected and seating is limited to 1,200 people.

Tickets are available by calling the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Visitors Center at (601) 446-6345 or (800) 647-6724.

Other authors and speakers appearing at the conference include David Zinnman, author of *The Day Huey Long Was Shot*; William Bedford Clark, author of *American Vision of Robert Penn Warren*; Noel Polk, editor of *Women's All the King's Men*; Charles Reagan Wilson, chairman of the Center for Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi; Cigi Ware, author of *Midnight on Julia Street*; Jerry W. Ward, editor of *Black Southern Voices*; Emmy Award-winning

ning arts director Barry Phillips; Emmy Award-winning producer Jennifer Opatz; novelist and script writer David Armstrong; Clifton Taulbert, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*; and

Joanne Prichard Morris, senior editor at University Press of Mississippi discussing "Willie Morris, My Dog Skip and Me"; actor Gerald McRaney reading passages from William Faulkner's works; and Peggy Whitman Preshaw, English professor at Louisiana State University and editor of *Conversations with Eudora Welty*.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park and Alcorn State University. Most of the conference is free, with most related activities low-cost.

For a full conference schedule or to order tickets, contact the Natchez Visitors Center, 640 S. Canal St., Natchez, Miss. 39120 or visit the conference Web site at www.colin.edu.ms.us/nlcc.



John Grisham



Bill Minor

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Alcorn State University

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 446-1208
Fax (601) 446-1214

January 26, 2001

To: All Co-Lin Faculty, Staff, and Personnel

From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Co-chairman, NLCC

Re: Free tickets to another Literary/Cinema Celebration special event!

Because of the overwhelming interest in the upcoming Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, the Steering Committee has decided we must issue tickets to the world premiere of the film version of Eudora Welty's novella, *The Ponder Heart*. This hilarious, heart-warming comedy will be shown at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Natchez City Auditorium.

On hand to introduce the film will be executive producer Marian Rees (award-winning Hallmark Hall of Fame film producer) and producer Earl Hamner (the genius behind "Falcon Crest" and "The Waltons"). Both are from Hollywood, Calif.

Though tickets to the film premiere are free, you must have a ticket to attend. Co-Lin faculty, staff, students, and friends are eligible to obtain up to **FOUR FREE TICKETS** each. To get your tickets, please sign up with one of the full-time English instructors at Co-Lin Natchez (Barbara Haigh, Jan Pickle, or Judy Wiggins) **BEFORE FRI., FEB. 2**. Your tickets may be picked up beginning Feb. 6 from the instructor with whom you signed up.

FACULTY: Please announce this procedure to all your classes. Since space is limited, we want the Co-Lin family to have "first dubs" on tickets. After Feb. 2, major publicity will begin, and tickets will be first-come, first-served at the Natchez Ticket Office at the Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau. We expect a full house for the premiere.

ALSO, VERY IMPORTANT! Please announce that if someone obtains tickets and finds later they cannot use them, they should turn them in promptly to me via the Bookstore at Co-Lin or to the Natchez Ticket Office. These tickets can then be distributed to people who are able to attend.

P.S. The free tickets for the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony honoring John Grisham and Bill Minor on Feb. 22 went like hot cakes! People are begging for tickets. Please remind your students to turn in any tickets they will not use so others can use them. Thanks.

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Opinion

The Democrat

Friday, January 26, 2001

4A

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Literary, film fest perfect for teachers

Calling all teachers! Here is some great news! You are eligible to earn continuing education units (CEU) for up to 27 hours or 2.7 credits in Natchez next month, at the very low cost of \$30.

This special offer is made by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which will take place Feb. 21-25. The conference theme is "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

Among more than two dozen speakers are John Grisham ("The Firm"), Clifton Taulbert ("Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored"), JoAnne Prichard Morris (senior editor, University Press of Mississippi), Gerald McRaney (Hollywood actor and William Faulkner enthusiast) and Bill Minor (longtime Mississippi journalist).

This award-winning, mostly free conference will begin at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21, and end at noon, Sunday, Feb. 25.

A CEU registration fee of \$30 per person covers costs of CEU verification at the University of Mississippi's



Top of the
Morning
Millicent Mayo

Institute for Continuing Studies as well as costs of a writing workshop with continental breakfast, from 9-30 a.m. until noon, Sunday, Feb. 25.

If a person cannot attend the entire conference, CEUs are available for the number of actual hours in attendance, from three hours up to the maximum of 27 hours. The CEU fee of \$30 applies no matter the number of hours to be received.

To register for CEU credit, just send your name, address, phone number and a \$30 check (made out to Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration) to Millicent Mayo, Natchez-Adams School District, P.O. Box 1188, Natchez, Miss., 39121.

For more information, please call me at (601) 442-0212.

I am serving as the Celebration's CEU consultant chairman.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration has to meet high standards to be able to offer CEUs again this year.

Dr. Laurence Buchanan, director of academic credit programs at the University of Mississippi Institute for Continuing Studies, said, "Programs that award CEUs are approved by people knowledgeable in their field. Therefore, people who attend these programs can be assured that the quality of the program meets professional standards."

So, get out your checkbook today and sign up for what official evaluators call Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history and culture.

It's the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. See you there!

Millicent Mayo is public relations director at the Natchez-Adams School District.

Together on Tuesdays
Sharing our talents to the worship of God
January 30, 2001

We welcome you to this service of worship. We hope that your spirits will be lifted by our celebration together.

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

Leader: Alleluia! This is the day that the Lord
has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Alleluia!

(Psalm 118:24)

PROGRAM

Presenting today's program are:

Bobby Dodson	Superintendent of the Natchez National Historic Park
Jim Barnett	Director of Historic Properties for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Maria Bowser	Director of Development for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Carolyn Vance Smith	From Copiah Lincoln Community College; Founder and Co-Chairman of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

The will be discussing the 12th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration which will take place February 21 - 25.

Shared Prayer

Following worship, you are invited to enjoy a light lunch in Stratton Chapel.

Next Week: A program presented by Anna Rose Davis

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AGENDA

NATCHEZ ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 31, 2001

Deanne From

I. Call to Order

- Introduction of Guests
- Management Update

Bill Watson, Chairman, MS
Joe Carden, President, MS
Marty Stuberfield, Business Sales
Chad Cargile, Consumer Sales

II. Review of AmSouth Financials

- Third Quarter Restructuring
- Fourth Quarter Report

III. Natchez Goals and Results

- Fourth Quarter, 2000
- First Quarter Goals
- First Quarter Scorecard Update

IV. Product and Services

- AmSouth Investment Services
Donna Lindley
- Business Loans, Deposits, Home Equity Loans, Investments

V. Board Feedback

NLCC Rock card was distributed w/ agenda.

" " " sent w/ H. Hal Garner bills
for Jan. 2001.

Region

Monday, February 5, 2001

The Democrat

5A

Miss-Los Magazine February 14-27, 2001 Page 15

Literary, cinema fest earns national publicity

Special to The Democrat

National publicity for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration appeared in a Feb. 2 article in *The Wall Street Journal*. The article highlighted several upcoming book-related events across the country.

The article gave the theme and dates of the 12th annual Celebration, said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, one of four Celebration co-chairmen.

Other co-chairmen are Jim Barnett of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Emma Blissett of Alcorn State University and Bob Dodson of Natchez National Historical Park.

The Celebration, Feb. 21-25, will use the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

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Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Fiction. Fact and Film:

The Genius of the South



Feb. 21-25

Natchez Community Center
and
Natchez City Auditorium

Free or Low-cost

Lectures • Films • Book Signings • Exhibits
Discussions • Tours • Writing Workshops

26 Distinguished Lecturers, Writers and Scholars
will discuss fascinating aspects of literature and film

Premieres of two films:

"For My People: The Life and Writings
of Margaret Walker Alexander," documentary and
"The Ponder Heart," based on Eudora Welty's novella

Awards ceremony Feb. 22 honoring John Grisham & Bill Minor

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History

Natchez National Historical Park and Alcorn State University

Project partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council



For information and tickets 601-446-6345
or 800-647-6724. www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration moves to February

Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, 2001, with the theme, "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South."

The celebration has a slightly different name, it's moving to a new time of year, two films will make their premieres, and three speakers will present two programs, one at the conference and the other at Natchez High School. At the school, students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather, said Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater," he said.

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the award-winning cultural event. He represents the national park, which has been a co-sponsor since 1991. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are Emma Blissent, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the event in 1990.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently re-named the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films, Dodson said. "We'll continue to celebrate great literature, but we're adding more films and documentaries," he said.

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students, Dodson said. "They wanted the conference during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, from Alcorn State University and from public, parochial and private schools in Adams County, Barnett said.

"We also expect students and faculty from Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and from most universities, colleges and community colleges in Mississippi," he said.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year. The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

"Another aspect of the conference which appeals to teachers is the fact that they can earn Continuing Education Units while attending the conference," Blissent said.

Premiering at the celebration are films connected with two famous Mississippi writers, Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker Alexander. They are "The Ponder Heart," based on a novella by Welty and produced by ALT Films of Hollywood, Calif., and "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documen-

See CELEBRATION, page 14

CELEBRATION continued from page 5

tary produced by the University of Kansas.

Still another change is taking one program of the conference into the schools, Blissent said. Three speakers will present a free program about their careers Feb. 22, at Natchez High School. Students and faculty from other area high schools are invited to attend.

Presenting this program are the author Clifton Taulbert of Tulsa ("Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored"), the Emmy Award-winning film producer Jennifer Ogden of Natchez (Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie") and

the Emmy Award-winning art director Barry Phillips of Forth Worth ("Wishbone" and "Poetry Pals").

The upcoming NLCC follows the usual pattern of a free lecture series with special enhancements. This year the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops.

Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., where most lectures will take place. For information and tickets call 446-6345 or 800-647-6724, or visit the conference web site at www.colin.cc.ms/nlcc.

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N-Sights

The campus newspaper of Copeiah-Lincoln Community College Natchez

February 2001

Vol. 28, No. 4

COVER
STORY

Historic NLCC begins; event continues this week

N-Sights staff

See schedule on Page 11

"I feel an aura here," said former Gov. William Winter, the director of proceedings for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Winter, in his 12th year with the celebration, lauded the organizers for putting on another special program during the opening day Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Natchez Community Center.

The five-day celebration, with its new theme of cinema and literature, attracted a full house of local and out-of-town guests, adults and youths as it opened with the theme: "Fiction, Fact and Film: the Genius

of the South."

Co-Lin is a co-sponsor along with Alcorn State University, the National Park Service and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Highlights include presentation of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to Mississippi writers John Grisham and Bill Minor.

Also, the premiere of the movie "The Ponder Heart," based on Eudora Welty's novel, will be shown.

Lectures feature talks on films, screen writers, novelists, poets and singers, while tours and events show off the Natchez area.

Pages 10-11



N-Sights staff photo

Former Gov. William Winter is the director of proceedings for his 12th year at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

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Page 8-9

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Mississippi History



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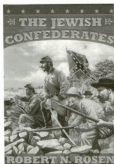
Volume 43 No.2

February 2001

Robert N. Rosen, Civil War Scholar, to Speak February 5

Robert N. Rosen, author of *The Jewish Confederates*, will speak at the Old Capitol Museum at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2001. In this, his latest study of the Civil War, Rosen introduces the community of southern Jews of that era, a community largely unknown even to specialists of American Jewish history and Civil War history. Rosen reveals the remarkable breadth of southern Jewry's participation in the war and the strength of Jewish commitment to the Confederate cause. His book is "a major contribution to Confederate studies and to the broader literature on the Civil War" (historian Gary Gallagher). Robert Rosen has also written *A Short History of Charleston and Confederate Charleston*.

This program is the first in a series of literary offerings sponsored by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, with cosponsors the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Jackson Civil War Round Table, and Beth Israel Congregation. The lecture, which will be followed by a book signing and reception, is free and open to the public. Copies of *The*



The Jewish Confederates, by Robert Rosen, University of South Carolina Press, will be available for purchase at \$39.95 each. The author will sign copies after the 7:00 p.m. lecture.

Jewish Confederates will be available for purchase.

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience is a project of the newly formed Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, Mississippi. The Institute provides educational and rabbinic services to small Jewish communities, documents the rich history of southern Jews, and promotes a strong Jewish cultural presence throughout a twelve-state region.

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

"Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South" is the theme of the twelfth annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, to be held February 21-25. Now including film in its format, the conference this year features two premiere screenings: *For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander* and *The Ponder Heart*. Other films include *One Writer's Beginnings*, a BBC documentary featuring Eudora Welty; *Tell About the South: Voices in Black and White*; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, from the novel by Harper Lee; *Native Son*, from Richard Wright's novel; and *Willie Morris's My Dog Skip*.

Receiving Richard Wright Literary Excellence awards will be novelist John Grisham and veteran journalist Bill Minor of Jackson. The awards ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs-

day, February 22, at the Natchez City Auditorium.

The date of the conference has been changed so that students and faculty from high schools and colleges can attend sessions; teachers who attend can earn continuing education units. Founder and event co-chair Carolyn Vance Smith has announced that all lectures and some events are free, with most others—receptions, meals, writing workshops, a tour of Natchez film sites—available at low cost. To obtain tickets to these special events, call 800/647-6724 or 601/446-6345 or visit the conference web site, www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc.

Cosponsors of the NLCC are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez National Historical Park, and Alcorn State University.

Holiday Card Features Manship House: Noland Company, a wholesale distributor in Newport News, Virginia, commissions art each year for its holiday greeting card, featuring a historical setting somewhere in its thirteen-state territory. This year the company commissioned a watercolor painting of the Manship House Museum by local artist Wyatt Waters.



Apply Now: Save America's Treasures Grants
The deadline to apply for the \$15 million available in *Save America's Treasures* grants is March 16, 2001. To request an application packet, call the National Park Service hotline, 202/343-9570.

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OFFICERS

President - Bill Rush Mosby
 Pres. Elect - William Lambert (RtH)
 Secretary - Mike Thompson
 Treasurer - Benny Jeansonne
 Sgt. at Arms - Russell Batts

Rotary Club of Natchez



CLUB NO. 542, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
 Natchez, Mississippi

DIRECTORS

George Ward
 Lil Graving
 Jack Stubbs
 Dickie Laird
 Joan Gandy
 Bryant Reed
 Butch Metcalfe, (Past Pres.)

District 6820

District Governor - John L. Turner, III

"Service Above Self"

February 7, 2001 Minutes of January 31, 2001

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation: Hall Wilson

Guests: Bill Hurt, guest of Jerry Moore

Visiting Rotarians: Vernon Stevens, Billy Rucher, William McDonough, Barry Maxwell

Missing Spokes: R.T. Van Uden, Pat Burns, Woody Burwell, David DeVries, Steve Elliott, Lee England, Clay Gibson, Charles Hall, Donald Killelea, Al King, Wally Kirk, Katie McCarstle, Tommy O'Brien, Ron Riches Jack Stubbs, Ty Taylor, John Watts

Make-ups:

Attendance Percentage: 85% for January 24, 2001

Announcements: Proposed new member, Hudson Hurt, First Baptist Church
 Rotary International has established a new program called the Bequest Society

Last Week's Program: Classification Talks

Scholarship Drawing: \$30 to Bobby Russ, \$45 to the Club

Attendance Drawing: Billy Pyron

Closing Motto: Bazile Lanneau, Jr.

Today's Program: Responsibility of Anne Stowers, Natchez Literary and Film Festival, Carolyn Vance Smith

Future Programs: 2/14- Bobby Russ; 2/21- Randy Tillman, 2/28 - R. T. VanUden

Rotary Information: Major and Planned Gifts: Can a donor designate or restrict a major gift to a particular fund, program, or project? Major gifts can be unrestricted, or directed to the Annual Programs Fund, the World Fund or to the permanent Fund. Depending on the gift size, contributions can be designated to particular programs.

Vocational Service Committees: Vocation Awareness & Awards James Cole, Chairperson
 Rawdon Blakenstein, John D'Antoni, Wally Kirk, Jim Overton,

Rotary Bulletin
 NATCHEZ ROTARY CLUB
 P.O. BOX 66
 NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39060



1919 - 2000 81 Years of Service

SHARE A RIDE - MAKE UP YOUR ATTENDANCE

FERRIDAY, LA, THURSDAY AT 12:05 P.M., PANOLA WOODS COUNTRY CLUB - HARRISONBURG, LA, MONDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

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Tuesday, January 23, 2001-Trip to Jackson, MS to see the MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum and the MS Museum of Natural Science. We will leave Co-Lin at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Vo-Tec building. There is an admission fee to both museums of \$3.00 (Senior Citizen) each. We will arrive in Jackson around 10:00 a.m. tour one museum, have lunch, tour the other museum, and then head to Natchez. If you would like to go please call Dee at 446-1210 to reserve your seat on the van. Transportation Cost \$5.00 per person

Here is a little information about each museum:

MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum

The history of Mississippi's two most important industries is traced inside the 40,000 square foot exhibit center where dynamic exhibits tell the story of Mississippi's farmers and lumbermen. The Fortenberry-Parkman Farm Restoration and the crossroads town offer living historical examples of life in rural Mississippi during the 1920's. Souvenirs and refreshments available in the General Store.

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

Natural objects and live animals tell the story of "Mississippi's Web of Life" through exciting and educational exhibits, as visitors experience the beauty and diversity of nature. The Museum draws connections between indoor exhibits and the surrounding outdoor environment. The experience begins with a spectacular White-tailed deer exhibit and soaring waterfowl exhibit and continues to the wall of fossils. An aquarium system containing nearly 100,000 gallons of water and housing over 200 species of native fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates in 20 aquariums tells an ecological story of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, and the Mississippi Sound. Life size habitat displays represent unique and exciting ecosystems, featuring hundreds of animals and plants.

"The Swamp" is a 1,700 sq.ft. greenhouse containing a 20,000-gallon aquarium that is home to an assortment of alligators, turtles, and fish surrounded by a lush native plant garden. The building is nestled against the tree line of a 300-acre natural area. Over 3,000 natives trees, shrubs, and vines have been planted to extend the natural area and restore wildlife.

****I will be sending out a February calendar soon, but I would like to go ahead and tell you about the brown bag lunch. It will be Wednesday, February 7th at 11:00 a.m. in the Activity Room. Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith will be our presenter. Mrs. Smith is the founder and co-chairman of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC.) She will speak to us about the upcoming event (February 21-25.) The steering committee for the NLCC has asked our group to serve refreshments during the conference. I will need volunteers for this. We have also been given tickets to the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, where John Grisham will be receiving an award. The event is free but you will need a ticket to get in. The ceremony will be at the Natchez City Auditorium on Thursday, February 22, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. Please let me know if you would like a ticket.**

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INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT



February 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Clyde Ray Lazarus Mary Piggott Marion Smith Jessie Watson	3
4	5 Computer Club 3:00-5:00	6 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00	7 Brown Bag Luncheon Vo-Tec Building	8 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00	9 Tour Old South Winery 1:00 p.m.	10
11	12 Computer Club 3:00-5:00 Ruby Holder	13 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00 Sara Wilson	14 	15 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00 Sherry Johnson	16	17
18 Mary Deal	19 Computer Club 3:00-5:00 <i>President's Day</i> 	20 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00	21 Wellness Committee luncheon The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration begins at 1:00 p.m.	22 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00 The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration	23 The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration Mary Jean Leckie	24 The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration Jean Isbell
25 The Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration W.C. Thornhill	26 Computer Club 3:00-5:00 Mary Everett	27 Computer Class- Basic Computer 2:00-4:30 Tai Chi 9:00-10:00	28			

Wednesday, February 7th—Brown Bag Lunch. We will be informed about the upcoming Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC.) The representatives from NLCC will be Mrs. Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman; Mr. Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park and co-chairman; and Ms. Maria Bowser, director of development for NLCC. The steering committee for the NLCC has asked our group to serve refreshments during the conference. I will need volunteers for this. We have also been given tickets to the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, where John Grisham will be receiving an award. The event is free but you will need a ticket to get in. The ceremony will be at the Natchez City Auditorium on Thursday, February 22, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. Please let me know if you would like a ticket. *****Please note we will not be in the Activity Room.** We will be located in the Vo-Tech building. Just come in the Vo-Tech building and ask where the ILR group is meeting. Everyone is welcomed and please bring a friend.

Friday, February 9th—Tour Old South Winery—You can meet at Co-Lin and ride the van or meet us there. The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m.; cost is \$3.00 per person. Please call Dee at 446-1210 by Wednesday, Feb. 7th to sign up. The winery would like a head count

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Free Film Premiere: 6 p.m., Sat., Feb. 24, 2001

see
full
color
poster
at front
of album



NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM, NATCHEZ, MS

Doors open at 5 p.m.

Film to be introduced by Executive Producer Marian Rees
and Producer Earl Hamner of Hollywood, Calif.

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Fiction, Fact and Film:
The Genius of the South
Feb. 21-25, 2001 - Natchez, Mississippi

**Presenters at the 12th annual
Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration**

- David Armstrong: Novelist/screenwriter, Southaven, Miss.
- Henri Bollinger: California film authority
- William Bedford Clark: Warren scholar, Texas A&M
- Maryemma Graham: Alexander scholar, Univ. of Kansas
- John Grisham: *A Time to Kill*, *Pelican Brief*, Miss. and Va.
- Earl Hamner: "The Ponder Heart" producer, California
- Donald Kartiganer: Faulkner scholar, Univ. of Miss.
- S. Dixon McDowell: Film scholar, Univ. of Southern Miss.
- Gerald McRaney: Actor, Calif. and Miss.
- Bill Minor: Journalist, Jackson, Miss.
- JoAnne Prichard Morris: Univ. Press of Mississippi
- Jennifer Ogden: "Tuesdays with Morrie," Hollywood
- Barry Phillips: PBS' "Wishbone," Fort Worth
- Noel Polk: Warren scholar, Univ. of Southern Miss.
- Peggy Whitman Preshaw: Welty scholar, La. State Univ.
- Marian Rees: "The Ponder Heart" exec. producer, California
- Gerald Sloan: Music/film expert, Univ. of Arkansas
- Clifton Taulbert: *When We Were Colored*, Tulsa
- Cleophus Thomas: Harper Lee enthusiast, Anniston, Ala.
- Charles Vahlkamp: Film scholar, Centre College, Ky.
- Jerry W. Ward: *Black Southern Voices*, Tuscaloosa College
- Ciji Ware: *Midnight on Julia Street*, San Francisco
- Jane Chase Wells: NBC's "The Third Watch," Hollywood
- Llewellyn Wells: Warner Bros. "The West Wing," Hollywood
- Charles R. Wilson: Southern culture scholar, Univ. of Miss.
- David Zinman: Huey Long expert, Ft. Lookout, N.Y.

RELATED FILMS

- "Tell About the South: Modern Southern Literature"
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" • "Native Son"
- "My Dog Skip" • Portions of "All the King's Men"
- "One Writer's Beginnings" • Portions of "The Reivers"

PREMIERES OF TWO FILMS

- "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander," a documentary
- "The Ponder Heart," based on Eudora Welty's novella



This event is sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
Natchez National Historical Park,
and Alcorn State University.

The project is partially funded by
the Mississippi Division of Tourism
and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

**The 12th Annual Natchez
Literary and Cinema Celebration**

Presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film:

***The Genius
of the South***



Design by William M. Smith Jr., New Orleans

**Feb. 21-25, 2001
Natchez, Mississippi**

FREE OR LOW-COST

Lectures - Films - Book Signings
Exhibits - Discussions - Tours - Workshops

Headquarters: Natchez Community Center

Awards ceremony Feb. 22 honoring
the writers John Grisham and Bill Minor



For information and tickets
1-601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724
www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc

2001 part 2
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The 12th Annual Natchez
Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

Fiction, Fact, and Film:

*The Genius
of the South*

*see free poster
at front of album*

Feb. 21-25, 2001

Natchez, Mississippi

FREE OR LOW-COST

Lectures - Films - Book Signings

Exhibits - Discussions - Tours - Writing Workshops

Headquarters: Natchez Community Center

Awards ceremony Feb. 22 honoring the writers



John Grisham

and



Bill Minor

Two film premieres:



Margaret Walker Alexander's "For My People"



Eudora Welty's "The Ponder Heart"

For information and tickets
1-601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724
www.colin.cc.ms.us/nlcc

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Alcorn State University

This project is partially funded by the Mississippi Division of Tourism and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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Schedule of events for the NLCC

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

The following events are free and at the Natchez Community Center on Franklin Street, except where noted.

9 a.m. "Huey Long: Fact, Fiction, and Film," a discussion by David Zinnman, Ph.D., Lookout, N.Y., author of *The Huey Long Was Shot*; William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M University, author of *American Vision of Robert Penn Warren*; and Noel Polk, University of Southern Mississippi, editor of Warren's *All the King's Men*, with film clips; chaired by Charles Roigan Wilson, The University of Mississippi

10:45 a.m. "Film as Document," Maryemna Graham, University of Kansas and Senior Academic Advisor of a film project about the life and writings of Mississippi author Margaret Walker Alexander

11:15 a.m. A premiere of the film, "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander"

11:45 a.m. Book signing honoring the morning's lectures
1:30 p.m. "Facts and Fiction: A Veterans Broadcaster Offers a Fictional Look at Natchez and New Orleans," Ciji Wae, San Francisco, reporter/author of *Midnight on Julia Street* and *A Light on the Veranda* (set in Natchez)

3 p.m. "Richard Wright and Cinematic Interpretation," Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo College (Miss.), co-editor of *Black Southern Voices*

4 p.m. Book signing honoring the afternoon's lectures

4-6 p.m. Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture: Reception, honoring NLCC speakers (\$10)

6:30 p.m. Natchez City Auditorium: The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony, honoring two Mississippi writers, the novelist John Gresham of Oxford, Miss., and North Garden, Va., and the journalist Bill Minor of Jackson, Miss. (by ticket only)

8 p.m. The 1950 film version of Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*, followed by an informal coffee house discussion led by Maryemna Graham; Noel Polk, University of Southern Mississippi, and Jerry W. Ward, Tougaloo College. Films will be free at the Natchez Community Center.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

The following events are free and at the Natchez Community Center on Franklin Street, except where noted.

9 a.m. "Responding to the Needs of Society: Bringing



the Human Touch to the 21st Century," a discussion by Barry Phillips, Fort Worth, PBS TV series, "Wishbone," and Creative Director, "Poetry Pals," and Jennifer Oplies, Natchez and Hollywood, producer of Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions "Tuesdays with Morrie" and other films

10:30 a.m. "From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film," a discussion by Jane Chase Wells, NBC TV, New York; Llewellyn Wells, producer, Warner Bros. "The West Wing," and David Armstrong, novelist/script writer, Southaven, Miss.; chaired by Henri Bollinger, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

12 p.m. Carriage House, Stanton Hall: Luncheon (\$25) followed by "Books and Film: Defining Our Sense of Place," Clifton Taulbert, Tulsa, author of *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored* and other books; book sale and book signing to follow

1:30 p.m. "Willie Morris, My Dog Skip, and Me," JoAnne Prichard Morris, senior editor, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson

2:45 p.m. The film version of Willie Morris' *My Dog Skip*

8 p.m. "Accolades for William Faulkner" Readings from Faulkner's work by Gerald McRaney, actor, of California and Mississippi, and remarks about Faulkner's career, with emphasis on *The Reivers*, by Donald Kartiganer, The University of Mississippi, author of *The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels*, with film clips
SATURDAY, FEB. 24:

The following events are free and at the Natchez Community Center on Franklin Street, except where

noted.

9 a.m. "Blues for Scarlett: Music in Films from Southern Literature," Gerald Sloan, Professor of Music, University of Arkansas

10:30 a.m. "Lights, Camera, Action: Favorite Film Sites in Southern Mississippi," Llewellyn Wells, producer of "Huck Finn," a film shot partially in Natchez

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Historic Jefferson College and Elms Court: Visits on your own to two of Natchez's favorite film sites (\$20) The 1835 mansion Elms Court ("Huckleberry Finn," "Robbers and Rascals," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Heulish Land," and "Rainier County")

Historic Jefferson College ("Horse Soldiers," "Huck Finn," "Rainier County," "Huckleberry Finn," "Mistress of Paradise," "The Mississippi," and "North and South")

Picnic lunch and re-enactment of a scene from "Horse Soldiers" at Jefferson College

2:15 p.m. "The Heart of Eudora Welty's Family Comedies," Peggy Whitman Premshere, Fred C. Frey Professor of English, Louisiana State University, editor, *Conversations with Eudora Welty*, Eudora Welty: Critical Essays, and Eudora Welty's 13 Essays

3 p.m. A film, "One Winter's Beginnings," a BBC documentary featuring Eudora Welty and her novella, "The Ponder Heart"

6 p.m. Premiere of the film version of Eudora Welty's novella, "The Ponder Heart," introduced by Marian Rees, CEO and Executive Producer, A.L.T. Films Inc., Studio City, Calif., with special guest Earl Hamner, Co-Producer of the film, *Studio City*

SUNDAY, FEB. 25 Copiah-Lincoln Community College

10 a.m.-noon Workshops for Writers (\$20, with coffee, juice, muffins) Limited enrollment. Choose one. Participants are invited to bring original manuscripts.

"Straight News, Columns, and Editorials: Tips on Writing for Newspapers," Bill Minor, journalist, Jackson, Miss.

"The Nan and Bels of Poetry Writing," Jerry Ward, published poet, Tougaloo (Miss.) College
"Play Writing Made Easy," David Zinnman, playwright, Ph.D., Lookout, N.Y.

"Structure and Format: An Introduction to Writing the Screenplay," S. Dixon McDowell, Chair, Department of Radio, Television, and Film, University of Southern Mississippi.

Many of the events are free - Headquarters is the Natchez Convention Center, Franklin Street

On the River

February 2001

Inside: Coverage of the
Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration

It's
Mardi
Gras
time!



February 2001



Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration

EVENTS

Feb. 21

- 1 p.m. Welcome and introductions.
- 1:15 p.m. A film, "Sil at the South: Voices in Black and White, the History of African American Literature."
- 2:45 p.m. 2000 Cinema Films: *Thelma Houston, Season of the Witch, and Legend in To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- 7 p.m. A film, "To Kill a Mockingbird."
- Feb. 22
- 9 a.m. "Haley Long: Poet, Fiction, and Film."
- 10:45 a.m. Film as Document.
- 11:15 a.m. A program of the film, "For My People: The Life and Writings of Margaret Walker Alexander."
- 11:45 a.m. Book signing honoring the morning's lectures.
- 1:30 p.m. "Facts and Fiction: A Literary Breakfast Offers a Personal Look at Natchez and New Orleans."
- 3 p.m. "Richard Wright and Creative Interpretation."
- 4 p.m. Book signing honoring the afternoon's lectures.
- 4:45 p.m. Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture: Reception, honoring NLCC speakers (\$10).
- 6:30 p.m. Natchez City Auditorium: The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Ceremony.
- 7:45 p.m. Mainstage: *Plunkett: A gale-winded driver honoring John Graham and Sir Mow (limited to 50 people) (\$15, \$10 is tax deductible)*.
- 8 p.m. The 1995 film version of Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*.
- Feb. 23
- 9 a.m. Responding to the Needs of Society: Bringing the Human Touch to the 21st Century.
- 10:30 a.m. From Page to Stage: How the Written Word Translates to Film.
- 12 p.m. Canine House at Station Hall: A Luncheon (\$25) followed by "Books and Films Defining Our Sense of Place."
- 1:30 p.m. Willie Morris: My Dog, Sky, and Me.
- 2:45 p.m. The film version of Willie Morris' *My Dog, Sky, and Me*.
- 5 p.m. Downtown Natchez: "The Wonderful World of Dinwiddie," a parade presented by the Natchez Mardi Gras Krewes of Presents.
- 8 p.m. "Awards for William Faulkner" Readings from Faulkner's work by Gerald Murphy.
- Feb. 24
- Natchez City Auditorium
- 9 a.m. "Blues for Survival: Music in Films from Southern Literature."
- 10:30 a.m. "Lights, Camera, Action: Favorite Film Sites in Southern Mississippi."
- 11:30 a.m. 2 p.m. Historic Jefferson College and the Mansion of Elms Court: Visits or play-act to two of Natchez's tourist film sites (\$25).
- 2:15 p.m. "The Heart of Eudora Welles' Family Chronicles."
- 3 p.m. A film, "One Writer's Beginnings."
- 3 p.m. Film has captured the life of the women of Eudora Welles' novels. The *Portrait Artist*.
- 8:45 p.m. 4 a.m. Remains in Wilkes: "The Wonderful World of Dinwiddie," a four grand ball (tickets for sale at the door).

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss. • 3

Southern Genius

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration promises to delight crowds

Graham, Moore honored

Special to The Democrat

Change is in the air for the 12th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, set for Feb. 21-25, with the theme, "Fiction, Fact, and Film: The Genius of the South."

The Celebration has a slightly different taste, it's moving to a new time of year, and three speakers will present two programs, one at the conference and the other at Natchez High School, where students in all of Adams County's public, parochial and private schools will gather, said Bob Dodson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. "We think our changes will make a great conference even greater," he said.

Dodson is one of four co-chairmen of the Olympic Award-winning cultural event. He represents the national park, which has been a co-sponsor since 1991. Other co-chairmen and co-sponsors are Emma Blount, Alcorn State University; Jim Barnett, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; and Carolyn Vance Smith, Corinth-Lincoln Community College. Smith and Co-Lin founded the



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will kick off next month, Feb. 21 to 25 with the theme, "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South."

The Natchez Film and Literary Celebration will kick off next month, Feb. 21 to 25 with the theme, "Fiction, Fact and Film: The Genius of the South."

event in 1990.

The conference, known for 11 years as the Natchez Literary Celebration, was recently renamed the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increasing emphasis on classic films, Dodson said.

"We'll continue to celebrate great literature, but we're adding more films and documentaries," he said.

A second change, moving the conference from its former time in early June to its new time in late February, is in response to numerous requests from professors, teachers and students, Dodson said.

"They wanted the conference during the school year so they can bring their students to it," he said.

In attendance will be students and faculty from Copeland Community College, from Alcorn State University and from public, parochial and private schools in Adams County, Barnett said.

"We also expect students and faculty from Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science and from most universities, colleges and community colleges in Mississippi," he said.

One special group in attendance will be selected students and faculty, called the William Winter Scholars, who are chosen to represent their institutions at the conference each year.

The group is named in honor of William Winter, a former governor of Mississippi who is

president of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees. Winter has been director of proceedings for the conference each year since its inception.

"Another aspect of the conference which appeals to teachers is the fact that they can earn Continuing Education Units while attending the conference," Blount said.

The upcoming NLCC follows the usual pattern of a free lecture series with special enhancements.

This year the program includes book signings, exhibits, a special tour of Natchez film sites, a reception, a luncheon and four writing workshops.

Headquarters will be the Natchez Community Center, 215 Franklin St., where most lectures will take place.

Other sites to be used are noted in the following agenda. Information and tickets are available by calling 601-446-6345 or 1-800-647-6724, or by visiting the conference Web site at www.natchez.ms.us/collab/.

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